





## U.N. doubts U.S. reports Iraq can amass chemicals

UNITED NATIONS (R) — United Nations officials in charge of dismantling Iraq's war machine expressed doubts on Monday about U.S. assertions that Iraq is rapidly rebuilding its chemical weapons industry.

U.S. officials accompanying Ambassador Madeleine Albright on a lobbying tour of Security Council members abroad contended Iraq was building a huge industrial facility near Baghdad that could be used for chemical weapons in two years.

But the commission, which receives intelligence reports from the United States, has heavy monitoring at all suspected chemical sites and is wary of the new reports.

"Our assessment is that if there is any clandestine activity at those sites we would know about it," said commission spokesman Tim Trevan.

He said there were five sites associated with Iraq's past chemical warfare programme, the largest at Minthana, west of Baghdad, and another at Fallujah. Several of the facilities were bombed during the Gulf war.

and the United Nations spent two years destroying chemical agents at the others.

At one site, Mr. Trevan said, Iraq was rebuilding facilities for pesticides and other non-U.N.-proscribed chemicals but these were under unusually heavy U.N. monitoring, including cameras, aerial surveillance and highly developed sensors.

"All the sites are being monitored closely," he said, referring to a long-term U.N. monitoring programme that will stay in place for years to come.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the commission, in a recent report to the Security Council said there were still severe problems in the biological weapons sphere but that he was satisfied the United Nations had destroyed chemical arms.

The new U.S. information on the chemical sites came during a lobbying effort by Ms. Albright.

Ms. Albright claims she has frustrated any attempts to ease sanctions against Iraq, particularly the oil embargo which is linked to weapons

destruction.

Washington can veto any attempt to ease sanctions but it wants most of the 15-member Security Council on its side. U.S. officials contend Ms. Albright's trip firmed up 10 votes.

The United States has Britain, Argentina, the Czech Republic, Honduras and Rwanda on its side. Some Security Council envoys question whether other countries will hold the line if Mr. Ekeus gives a favourable report later this year.

France and Russia, backed by China and Indonesia, have suggested they might seek a suspension of the oil embargo as early as April when Mr. Ekeus gives a six-month report.

At issue is a 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution that links destruction of weapons of mass destruction to lifting or easing sanctions on Iraqi exports such as oil. Imports of goods to Iraq are tied to other demands such as the return of property to Kuwait and an accounting of war prisoners.



Jordan's tourism minister Abdul Ilah Al-Khatib (right) shakes hands with his Egyptian counterpart Mamdouh Al-Beitagi (centre) and Israeli counterpart Uzi Baram while attending an International Tourism Bourse (ITB) meeting in Berlin's congress centre on Monday. Mr. Khatib returned home on Tuesday (AFP photo)

## Khatib reports growing international interest in Jordan's tourism sector

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Al-Khatib on Tuesday stressed that there was international readiness to support the tourism sector in Jordan, particularly in the wake of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and the stability the Kingdom enjoys.

In a statement to the press upon returning from Berlin where he headed a delegation of public and private sector representatives to the Berlin international fair, Mr. Khatib said he held talks with several tourism ministers and officials attending the opening ceremony of the fair.

He added that the private sector in Jordan, which was largely represented in the Jordanian delegation, felt a growing interest by international tour agencies in the Jordanian market.

## Algerian press attacks ban on paper

TUNIS (R) — Algeria's press has ripped into a government order to suspend a French-language newspaper, calling the decision "butchery by the guillotine" and "liquidation" of press freedoms.

The authorities on Sunday closed La Tribune on the grounds it was not publishing a twin Arabic publication as required by law. Algerian journalists widely regarded that as a pretext to silence an independent newspaper critical of official policy.

Algeria's army-backed government has suspended several newspapers for "subversive information" and "apologising for terrorism" since conflict with the militants broke out. But it was the first time a paper was banned on grounds of language.

The Committee to Protect Journalists fears that these publications have been penalised simply for having exercised their right to free expression," the letter said. Journalism in Algeria has been caught in the middle of a bloody conflict between the military-backed authorities and militants fighting to overthrow them. An estimated 30,000 Algerians have died in three years of fighting.

But free debate of the country's political future still rages in independent newspapers, despite militants killing at least 33 journalists and continual harassment by the authorities.

The main Arabic language newspaper, Al-Khabar, compared La Tribune's suspension to a freedom fighter being "hatched by the violent guillotine."

Al-Wajh Al-Akhar was suspended on Feb. 20 by the Interior Ministry without any official explanation, the U.S. group said in its letter faxed to Reuters.

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## Israeli probe condemns confusion on 'executions'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A former military chief said Monday that ambiguous instructions have confused troops and may have led them to believe that it was acceptable to execute fallen enemies.

The charge emerged from an inquiry by reserve General Moshe Levy into whether an army officer was mistakenly executed by his own forces carrying out the long-rumoured but officially denied practice widely known as "verifying the kill."

end of the clash, the soldiers approached a man lying on the ground. Two of them fired at him, hitting him a few times, until somebody shouted, 'don't shoot, it's Kiwan'."

But Gen. Levy maintained that this did not constitute what is known as "verifying the kill."

"I didn't find any confirmation of the claim that the verifying the kill procedure was applied here," he wrote.

Gen. Levy did, however, criticise what he termed "a great and dangerous lack of clarity both among the soldiers and their commanders" regarding the procedure.

The investigation into the Dec. 19 death of Major Kiwan Hamdan in Lebanon was launched after February media reports that his own troops mistook him for a guerrilla, shot him from afar and then approached to shoot him until he was dead.

Gen. Levy determined that Hamed got caught in cross-fire during an intense, close-range gun battle between Israeli troops and Lebanese guerrillas and could have been killed by either side.

The officers "caused severe damage to the credibility of army reports," Gen. Levy wrote.

He called for "nurturing procedures and practices that might mislead and create the confusion that exists today."

An army statement said only that it had adopted Gen. Levy's recommendations and ordered them implemented. There was no direct response to the criticism regarding "verifying the kill."

The army has consistently denied the practice exists. But soldiers have claimed it does. Last month Israel TV aired a videotape in which soldiers were seen shooting point-blank a prostrate Palestinian who had tried to attack them.

## Beleaguered Rabin faces snowballing financial scandal

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, his standing badly shaken by militant attacks and a deadlock in peace talks, now faces a mushrooming scandal over misuse of trade union funds for Labour Party political campaigns.

The scandal broke this week with reports that police were investigating officials who allegedly used millions of dollars belonging to the Histadrut trade union to fund their political campaigns in recent years.

Mr. Rabin has steadily lost popularity because of his seeming inability to stem attacks by militants — 56 Israelis have been killed since October — or make headway in peace talks with the Palestinians and Syrians.

His credibility has also suffered because of mismanagement of economic issues. Mr. Rabin cancelled a capital gains tax after months of vacillation, the stock market plunged and pension funds are in trouble.

Minister Shimon Peres, head of the Dahan polling organisation, said on army radio Monday that even without factoring in the corruption scandal, Mr. Rabin would be defeated by right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu if elections were held today.

The Histadrut, representing 60 per cent of Israel's workforce of about two million, was the party's main power base for 74 years until Mr. Ramon, a Labour Party renegade, won elections last year. It owns a web of industries, services and collective farms estimated to account for up to a fifth of Israel's economic output.

On Monday, Haaretz and other newspapers reported that a middle-ranking Histadrut functionary, Uzi Fassa, agreed to testify that top Labour Party officials coerced him into misappropriating funds.

According to the reports, about 1.4 million shekels (\$500,000) in members' dues were transferred to Labour's failed union election campaign last year, and millions of shekels more were used to support several party members' 1992 Knesset campaigns.

Based on documents provided by Mr. Ramon, police are also investigating if Labour officials used Histadrut funds to pay wiretaps

Political commentator Nahum Barnea termed the affair "a political cluster bomb that could destroy not only the careers of (former Histadrut officials) but also Rabin."

"His ship is breaking up and sinking," Mr. Barnea wrote in the Yedioth Aharanot daily.

The mood was funeral Monday at Histadrut headquarters in central Tel Aviv, an imposing building adorned with a red flag — a sign of the organisation's socialist roots.

Workers huddled in their rooms debating how far the investigation would reach.

"No one who worked here over the years is surprised," said Melinka Kadosh, who operates an organisation's trademark t-shirt — which to many Israelis has come to symbolise legends of bureaucrats whiling away the hours sipping tea.

The corruption stretches all the way to the top, but only the little guys get caught. Maybe this time it will be different.

A top official from the national fraud squad told the Associated Press the police goal was to reach the decision-makers who sanctioned the

wiretaps.

Police Minister Moshe Shabai said charges would soon be filed against some of the suspects.

The radio reported that police would question Transport Minister Kessar and Deputy Trade Minister Lubelski as well as several Labour Party deputies.

Despite Mr. Rabin's intervention, Trade Minister Micha Harish warned of major trouble ahead. A meeting of the party politburo will take place on Thursday to review the position ahead of next year's elections.

"The longer the police examine Labour's affairs, the greater the danger for the party," said Mr. Harish.

## Journalist freed after prolonged PNA detention

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The director of the Gaza based Al Abrar press office was released two days ago following a prolonged detention in the hands of the Palestinian police, a reliable source said Tuesday.

"Saftawi has chosen to tread another line (to that of his father) and so the second reason for his detention was to make him adopt his father's position," the source added.

Alaa Al Saftawi was detained on Feb. 8 when the Palestinian police raided the premises of the press office, according to an international organisation, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

"It was part of a crackdown, which the Palestinian administration is very sincere about" on opponents to the peace accords, he said.

"I have received information from Gaza that Al Saftawi was released on Monday," said the source, who did not wish to be named.

They were apparently released after questioning.

Al Abrar press office issues Islamic Jihad's Al-Istiqal weekly.

The source was unable to say whether the five journalists detained with Mr. Al Saftawi had been freed yet.

Earlier reports claimed that Mr. Saftawi was detained after the Jan. 22 suicide bombing which killed 21 Israelis.

In a recent statement issued by the New York-based CPJ, the journalists were named as Ayyeh Abu Maassour, Khaled Sadeq, Nabeel Kutkut, Mohammed Sayyad and Zakariya Madhoun. A copy of the statement was obtained by the Jordan Times.

His detention along with that of five other Al Istiqal journalists coincided with the rounding up of supporters of organisations opposed to the peace accords with Israel. More than 60 people were arrested following January's bomb-blast.

The non-partisan organisation's statement included a letter sent to Mr. Arafat expressing its concern over the "prolonged detention of Alaa Al Saftawi... and five other journalists with the paper (Al-Istiqal)." It added that they were "imprisoned for exercising their right to free expression."

Groups which oppose the peace accords include Islamic Jihad, Hamas and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The CPI is dedicated to the defence of journalists' rights throughout the world.

"Saftawi was held for two reasons. The first was on account of Israeli pressure on Yasser Arafat to crackdown on Islamic militant activities," the source told the Jordan Times.

The second reason, said the source, was attributable to the role played by Mr. Saftawi's father, a Gazan leader who supports the Palestine National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat. Mr. Saftawi's father was assassinated in Gaza over a year ago, the source said.

The PNA allowed the reopening of the office on Feb. 27 after an investigation showed there was no need to keep it closed, although its director remained in detention until Monday.

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## Australian firm owner's safety depends on U.N.

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian-based business freedom and enable the firm to withdraw from the African country, Mr. Morris said.

The United Nations is in dispute with Mr. Morris over its contract with his company, and the matter could go to litigation, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said in New York on Monday.

New Zealand and Australian governments have begun pressing the United Nations for the matter to be resolved.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans wrote on Tuesday to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to ensure the issue received top priority, a spokesman for Mr. Evans told Reuters.

A New Zealand Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday that Wellington was still concerned about Mr. Morris and would keep pressing the United Nations for a resolution to the dispute.

Mr. Morris, an Australian resident, offered himself as security to his creditors to win the release of two Australian employees who were previously being held.

The controversial businessman won a lucrative contract to supply the United Nations in Somalia.

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in a war-torn Somalia ended last Friday with the withdrawal of the last peacekeeping troops.

In October 1993, Mr. Morris' 21-year-old son Tyson was killed by Somali gunmen after dismissing a Somali from his job.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00 Les Raisons Lavours	
17:30 Envoyé Spécial "Magazine"	
19:00 News in French	
19:30 "The Bold and the Beautiful"	
19:45 "The Bold and the Beautiful"	
20:30 The Marvelous Machine	
21:10 Berlin Break	
22:00 News in English	
22:20 Prism	
22:40 Snowy River	
23:10 Keeping Up Appearances	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:35 Fajr	
05:52 (Sunrise) Duha	
11:47 Asr	
17:42 Maghrib	
18:58 Isha	
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sundwich, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.	632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrace Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	633541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.	771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.	773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel.	632326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.	804328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman	Tel. 811295
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures are expected to rise with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate. In Amman, moderate weather with occasional showers and light winds. In the north, moderate to heavy rain.	
Min./Max. temp.	6/18
Amman	13/26
Dagbura	4/20
Jordan Valley	11/25
Yesterday's high temperatures:	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Amman 16 Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent. Aqaba 39 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Yousef Abdo	694916
Dr. Bassim Qudmani	648633
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih	756988
Dr. Fekih Tayeh	885880
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nakouda pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeini pharmacy	637660
Marwani pharmacy	623672
Hagler pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qanu	( )
Al Quds pharmacy	( )
ZARQA:	
Dr. Randa Shabin	995710
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	751121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Host Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	630321
Regada	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussien Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann.	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642526
Malhas, J. Amman	626140
Palatine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666177/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Basir, J. Asrafieh	775111/26
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
Queen Alia Hospital	662402/0
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)900560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)900560
IRBID:	
Princess Banaa Hospital	(02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)727275
The Al Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:45	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Amman (RJ)
08:35	Amman (RJ)
08:45	Jeddah (RJ)
08:55	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:05	Larnaca (RJ)
12:15	New York (RJ)
16:35	London (RJ)
16:45	Istanbul (RJ)
16:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
17:20	Paris (RJ)
17:55	Brussels, Vienna (RJ)
18:10	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:10	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:35	Rome (RJ)
23:40	Beirut (RJ)
06:20	Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:35	Cairo (MS)
10:30	Sanaa (YV)
10:30	Jeddah (SV)
14:20	Algiers (AH)
15:45	Karachi (PK)
15:45	Larnaca (CY)
20:20	Beirut (ME)
23:05	Athens (OA)
23:20	Amsterdam (KL)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
08:50	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Amman (RJ)
10:00	Amman (RJ)
10:35	Beirut (RJ)
10:50	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:05	Istanbul (RJ)
11:15	Colombo (RJ)
19:35	Beirut (RJ)
19:40	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:00	Riyadh (RJ)
20:30	Aden (RJ)
21:00	New Delhi (RJ)
21:25	Cebu, Bangkok (RJ)
23:45	Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:45	Beirut (ME)
10:30	Cairo (MS)
11:30	Sanaa (YV)







up production to meet the demand. Lion King videocassettes went on sale Tuesday. Many stores are selling the cassettes at steep discounts, often \$8 or more off the suggested \$26.98 retail price.

andela to dive



## Rebel Muslims inflict major defeat on Bosnian army in Bihac enclave

**BELGRADE (Agencies)** — Breakaway Muslim forces of rebel leader Fikret Abdic have inflicted a major defeat on the Bosnian army in the northwestern Bihac enclave, the rebels' radio station reported.

Radio Velkaton said Abdic forces pushed the Bosnian government army's 5th Corps back by 10 kilometres southward towards the government-held town of Cazin.

Gains were also made east of the Abdic stronghold of Velika Kladusa in the north of the pocket, the radio said.

Radio Velkaton said more than 1,000 shells were fired in the battle, which lasted 24 hours.

United Nations peacekeepers in the Bihac enclave counted only 150 mortar, artillery or tank rounds since midnight, Monday, U.N. spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon told Reuters in Sarajevo.

While confirming that the fighting was to the south and east of Velika Kladusa, Maj. Gourmelon said it was unclear if either side had made any significant gains.

Restrictions on the movement of U.N. troops imposed by Mr. Abdic's men prevent the peacekeepers from assessing the situation.

On Monday, there was sporadic shelling of the U.N.-declared "safe area" of Bihac town. One shell landed in the town itself, although there were no casualties.

Radio Velkaton said at least 50 5th Corps soldiers had died in the fighting. Another 100 were captured or surrendered. Abdic's men enjoy military support from

Serbs in Croatia who have formed an alliance with the Muslim leader.

The United Nations Tuesday expressed concern over the setting up of a joint military command by Croatia and the Muslim-Croat Bosnian Federation, saying it smacked of war-mongering.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) views the joint command "with great concern as another indication that both Croatia and Bosnia are trying to move away from the peace process towards renewed confrontation," spokesman Alexander Ivankovic said here.

The new command was announced in Zagreb Monday, two weeks after breakaway Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia announced they too had set up a joint military council.

UNPROFOR admitted the decision to set up the joint command in strict terms regarded only Croatia and Bosnia. But it suggested the move — weeks ahead of a pullout of U.N. forces from Croatia — would fuel tension in the region.

UNPROFOR's mandate in Croatia ends at the end of next month. And Zagreb has given the 15,000 peacekeepers stationed in the republic until June 30 to complete their withdrawal. They have been based in the Serb-held Krajina region as a buffer force since 1992.

Croatia has complained that the U.N. force has failed to help it recover Krajina — which represents a quarter of its territory. Breakaway Serbs seized the region during the war that broke out in 1991 when Croatia declared independence from former

Yugoslavia.

The joint command, to be headed by Croatian Armed Forces chief General Janko Bobetko, a 76-year-old former Yugoslav commander, was set up under the terms of the Washington accord that led to the setting up of a Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia a year ago and paved the way for confederation with Croatia.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman insisted: "This agreement is not aimed at a third party."

But Croatian television quoted Gen. Bobetko as saying the joint command would be used to "protect the territories, borders and populations living within the federation and confederation and to create the conditions for a return of refugees to their homes."

Up to 300,000 Croats fled their homes in the Krajina region, and perhaps as many Serbs have left government-controlled Croatia.

"It is appropriate to coordinate the political efforts of Croatia and the (Bosnia-Herzegovina) Federation, in particular because of Croatia's decision to end the mandate of the U.N. peacekeepers," Mr. Tudjman also said.

Bosnian army chief General Rasim Delic and the commander of Croat forces in Bosnia, General Tihomir Blaskic, were also appointed to the new command.

"The three generals agreed last night to coordinated action, but joint headquarters haven't been set up yet," Bosnian Federation vice-president Ejup Ganic was quoted as saying Tuesday.

## Veterans recall the bridge at Remagen

**REMAGEN, Germany (R)** — American and German veterans of World War II gathered Tuesday to mark the 50th anniversary of a key Rhine bridge's capture that helped shorten the war and paved the way for their nations to become allies.

Hundreds of U.S. soldiers who fought with the 9th Armoured Division returned to the sleepy town where they made history a half-century ago by capturing the bridge, letting the allies pour men and heavy equipment into the German heartland.

"The seizure of this bridge hastened in large or in small measure the end of the war in Europe. And anything that shortens a war by even five minutes deserves commemoration," said Major General George Ruhlert, head of the division's veterans group.

It was a day for the veterans, many back in Europe for the first time in 50 years, to reminisce, to swap war stories with old buddies and to meet German counterparts they once saw only through gun sights.

Squeezed into parts of their old uniforms and squinting in the bright sunshine that lit up American and German flags flying from the blackened towers that are all that remain of the span, old soldiers turned their thoughts to days of youth and danger.

"I had a lot of good friends who never came back," said Colonel Robert Dill from Winchester, Kansas, who was a supply officer when he first saw the railway bridge that was the last span across the Rhine 50 years ago.

"I was happy to see it, that's for sure," he said. "We could always get stuff across the river by air, but if we didn't have the bridge we couldn't get big things like trucks across."

Astonished that their demolition charges failed at the crucial moment and left the bridge intact for the advancing allies, German defenders tried their best to knock it down with artillery, aerial bombs, rockets and even frogmen.

"I remember that it looked like a sheet of fire as German planes came by," Mr. Dill recalled. "It was in the evening and it looked like the air was filled with nothing but bullets."

Stanley Dibble from Middlebury, Connecticut, manned an artillery battery near the bridge he had been shocked to see still standing. Enemy fire was so intense that he often had to climb into holes and cover up to save himself.

"It was the first time we had ever seen a jet," he recalled. "We did not know what they were as they came zipping across the sky. Finally we got the order to just stop firing because we could not hit them."

For Dale Taylor of Abilene, Kansas, the return to Remagen was his first trip back to Europe since the war. "I wasn't worried about coming back," he said as a bus carrying him and his buddies rolled through town on the way to ceremonies marking the day.

The bridge stood only 10 days before it collapsed into the Rhine on March 17, sweeping 28 U.S. soldiers to their deaths. But by that time pontoon bridges were carrying streams of material onto the Rhine's eastern bank.

"Do you know why the bridge collapsed? Saint Patrick heard that the British were coming and he was damned if he was going to let them get across that easy," joked John Leonard Jr., son of the 9th Armoured Division commander at that time.

German veterans said they knew the war was lost long before the allies took the bridge.

"We were convinced that the taking of the bridge would have no impact on the course of the war," said Lieutenant-Major Karl Thieme, the armoured infantry commander who led an unsuccessful counterattack. "It was senseless what happened here."

He and other German officers spoke highly of their erstwhile enemies, especially of the respect German units were accorded when they capitulated at war's end. This helped veterans' organisations on both sides forge close ties.

## De Gaulle's son supports Chirac Ballardur set to fight back

**PARIS (Agencies)** — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur will now launch a challenger's campaign in a bid to bounce back from the collapse of his popularity in opinion polls, according to his top electoral aides.

Spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy said Mr. Balladur, who has been overtaken by his main rivaling rival Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac seven weeks before the first round of voting, was suffering from a "regular heavy shelling" from his opponents, but insisted he would survive.

"It would be astonishing if the opinion polls didn't go down, considering the regular heavy shelling under way against both his actions and him in person," Mr. Sarkozy said.

"Now that the polls have gone down, we have to be like the challenger, and that is fine by us. We have to be a good player."

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, the conservative premier's right-hand man, said he was "very optimistic" about Mr. Balladur's chances of fighting back, and said the prime minister would not change tack to please voters who opinion polls indicate have deserted him in large numbers in recent weeks.

Mr. Balladur, for months the clear frontrunner in the race to succeed President Francois Mitterrand, has in the last two weeks seen his poll lead of more than 20 points collapse against both Mr. Chirac and leftwing challenger Lionel Jospin.

Three polls in the last five days have given Mr. Chirac a lead in the race for the first time, sparking pressure on the Balladur camp to rethink its strategy.

"The most stupid thing a candidate could do would be to present himself not as he is, but how his advisors think he should be," said Mr. Pasqua.



French Prime Minister and conservative presidential candidate Edouard Balladur (centre) flanked by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua (left), and Defence Minister Francois Leotard (right), delivers a speech in Nice, on the foundation stone of the town's new university (AFP photo)

qua. "M. Balladur is how he is. He is a calm, serene man. He must stay that way."

In a reference to Mr. Balladur's conceived complacency, he added: "But he must also give the French people the feeling that his calmness does not exclude determination."

And he added: "It is quite normal that the prime minister should drop in the polls from the moment he announces his candidacy, and becomes a target for everyone else."

"We now have to begin the electoral battle ourselves. We have not yet done so."

The son of late French President Charles De Gaulle gave symbolic weight to the presidential bid of Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac Tuesday, defending him from charges of betraying his father's legacy.

Philippe De Gaulle, a French senator, wrote in an article in the daily Le Figaro

that his father's ideas would "no longer have counted as a political force" without Mr. Chirac, who founded the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) party in 1976.

Opponents accuse Mr. Chirac, a former prime minister who overtook Mr. Balladur last week in opinion polls ahead of the April-May election, of veering left to court votes.

But Philippe De Gaulle quoted his father as saying in 1965: "France isn't the left, France isn't the right, it's everyone, it's the entire French people."

Philippe De Gaulle also hit out at Mr. Balladur, backed by almost all his cabinet ministers to succeed President Francois Mitterrand, for joining the race last month when Mr. Chirac was the sole RPR candidate.

"It would have been preferable... to have let the prime minister, whose qual-

ities are unquestionable, to continue governing" to avoid what Mr. De Gaulle called a regrettable double candidacy.

Philippe De Gaulle rejected suggestions Mr. Balladur was a better candidate for unity, saying Mr. Chirac had worked "without respite to unite all political and social movements not hardened by a systematic and sectarian opposition to the general."

Meanwhile, Socialist Party presidential candidate Lionel Jospin unveiled his campaign platform Tuesday, putting the fight against France's chronic joblessness at the heart of his bid for the Elysee Palace.

The leftwing leader, who has led the French left from disarray to become a key contender in next month's poll, also urged a wide raft of measures to bring France out of what he called its "crisis," including a new tax on speculative investment.

## Polish premier declares war on gangs

**WARSAW (R)** — Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy took office declaring war on Poland's increasingly dangerous gangsters and he called key ministers together Tuesday to decide how to crush them.

Even before President Lech Walesa swore the new cabinet in Monday night, the ex-Communist Oleksy said he would appoint a new national police chief, Jerzy Stanczyk.

"I believe that you will be a

commander...who will deal with these handits posing a threat to Polish people," Mr. Oleksy, once a minister in Poland's last Communist government, told Chief Stanczyk at a late-evening meeting.

Mr. Oleksy's spokeswoman announced that, public security would be the first subject on the agenda of the new government and that Mr. Oleksy would convene and personally chair a committee charged

with fighting organised crime.

Polish cities have been rocked by increasingly frequent bomb blasts as rival gangs settle scores, intimidate victims or fight for turf.

In 1994, there were 141 bombs found or planted, of which 82 went off, while this year there have been nine "bomb blasts" in Warsaw alone. Just before Mr. Oleksy was sworn in another device was found and defused in a Warsaw car wash.

## Gunmen kill Pakistani Shiite leader

**LAHORE, Pakistan (R)** — Gunmen killed a leader of a militant Shiite Muslim organisation and his bodyguard in the Pakistani city of Lahore Tuesday, police said.

They said gunmen on a motorcycle shot Mohammad Ali Naqvi, a member of the Supreme Council of Tehrik-i-Jafria Pakistan (TJP), as he drove to work at about eight a.m. (0300 GMT).

Mr. Naqvi, hit in the chest, died instantly. His bodyguard was wounded and died in hospital. Three passersby, two of them children, were wounded in the hail of gunfire.

The gunmen escaped and there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the killings.

After the attack, TJP supporters staged angry protests on the central Muktan Road, hurling stones, throwing stones, smashing car windows and shooting in the air, witnesses said.

The TJP has been locked in a vendetta with the rival militant Sunni Muslim Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) organisation in which scores of people have been killed in recent months.

TJP leader blamed the provincial government for failing to ensure security.

"The Punjab government is responsible for this incident as it has not taken steps to eliminate terrorist groups," said Sajid Raza, head of the TJP's Inamania Student Organisation.

Mr. Naqvi, the first president of the TJP's militant student wing, was a doctor at the prestigious Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Lahore and was chairman of the TJP's Education Council.

A married man aged about 40 with a neatly trimmed beard, Mr. Naqvi was known as an active, intelligent organiser.

His assassination followed an attack in the Punjab provincial city of Jhang Sunday in which gunmen killed six people, including former provincial assembly member

Sheikh Mohammad Iqbal, a known opponent of the SSP.

A police spokesman said Jhang, where SSP leader Azam Tariq has his headquarters, was calm Tuesday amid tough security measures. He said three police armoured personnel carriers were patrolling the streets and many arrests had been made.

Meanwhile, Murtaza Bhutto, estranged brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said he plans to launch a rival political movement on March 15.

Ms. Bhutto's government has "pushed the country to the verge of economic collapse," Murtaza Bhutto said Monday evening. "The sooner the government is ousted, the better for the country."

Murtaza Bhutto, 41, faces a host of legal problems and has inspired only limited political support since his 1993 return from 16 years in exile. Most observers see him as a nuisance, but not a serious threat to Ms. Bhutto.

He said Mr. Mbeki had tried to get in touch with Mrs. Mandela Monday.

"The whole thing is very complicated with the police investigation still underway, but obviously her trip to West Africa will have to be discussed. That was against the president's wishes," Mr. Naidoo said.

Mrs. Mandela's spokesman, Alan Reynolds, said her legal application had to take precedence. "The legal matters must take precedence right now. I think that will be her first priority."

Police have said they are investigating allegations that she used her position and influence to win low-cost housing contracts in the Gauteng region around Johannesburg for a firm in which she had financial interests.

Zindzi said the pressure her father was being put under to divorce, came from within the ANC.

"Closing the Winnie Mandela period will also be an end to the militant part of his life. That is their idea," she said.

## Mandela to divorce soon — daughter

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — South African President Nelson Mandela is likely to divorce his estranged wife Winnie soon, the couple's youngest daughter has said.

Zindzi Mandela-Hlongwane said in a magazine interview people within the ruling African National Congress (ANC) were putting pressure on the 76-year-old president to divorce Mrs. Mandela.

"Officially they are not yet divorced. But most likely that will come about, for I sense pressure on him to distance himself definitely from her," Zindzi said in the interview published in the March issue of South Africa's glossy Thando magazine.

"My father and mother don't see each other anymore... as if they don't exist for each other," Zindzi added.

Spokesmen for both President Mandela and Mrs. Mandela refused to comment on the likelihood of divorce saying the matter was private.

The president who spent 27 years in jail and Mrs. Mandel-

la, 61, have been separated since 1992.

Mrs. Mandela who is deputy arts, culture, science and technology minister, has been embroiled in controversy on several occasions before and after the separation.

Last week police raided her luxury home in Johannesburg's Soweto township in connection with a fraud and a corruption investigation while she was on an unauthorised trip to West Africa.

Mrs. Mandela has challenged the validity of the search warrant. Her application will be heard on March 14.

President Mandela has ordered Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to look into the charges, which have threatened Mrs. Mandela's position in the government and as the head of the Women's League of the ANC.

Mr. Mbeki's spokesman Ricky Naidoo said the deputy president had received a letter from Mrs. Mandela, saying she could not meet him immediately.

## Moscow mayor threatens to quit over sackings

**MOSCOW (R)** — Moscow's powerful mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, said Tuesday he would go ahead with a threat to resign unless President Boris Yeltsin cancelled the sackings of the city's top law enforcers.

Mr. Luzhkov, seen as a potential rival to Mr. Yeltsin in the 1996 presidential elections, added that if Monday's formal dismissal of prosecutor Gennady Ponomarev and Police Chief Vladimir Pankratov were not rescinded he would challenge the legality of the decisions in the courts.

Mr. Luzhkov's announcement was a challenge to Mr. Yeltsin to reverse a process he himself started by publicly calling for the dismissal of the two men following the mafia-style murder on March 1 of television celebrity Vladimir Listyev.

The murder of Mr. Listyev, 38, a top anchorman and chat show host known to millions across the former Soviet Union, plunged Russia into grief and raised fresh public concern about the ability of the authorities to combat organised crime.

Mr. Luzhkov, a one-time political ally of Mr. Yeltsin, has increasingly steered an independent line. He has fought a long campaign to exempt Moscow from the government's privatisation programme.

Mr. Luzhkov, quoted by Interfax News Agency, said



Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin (centre) gestures during his speech at the sitting of the State Security Council as Defence Minister Pavel Grachev (right) and Yevgeny Primakov, the head of Russia's intelligence, listen. The situation in Russia (AFP photo)

the dismissal of the two men amounted to a "violation of the constitution, the law of the police and the president's decree on the police in Moscow."

But Oleg Lobov, secretary of Russia's Security Council which met Monday to discuss law and order, said Tuesday the dismissal of the two men had been supported by all members of the Council.

Mr. Lobov told a news conference the council wanted some \$110 million, slashed from the 1995 draft budget, to be reinstated to fund the fight against crime.

He said the government had proposed one trillion roubles (\$220 million) of budget money be spent on fighting crime but that deputies had halved this at the third reading of the draft.

"I think that at the fourth reading the Duma deputies

have got to come back to this question in connection with recent events."

He said the council, chaired by Mr. Yeltsin and grouping the main law enforcement and defence bodies, also wanted parliament to pass a law to protect judges.

In a two-hour discussion Monday of the worsening crime situation, which Mr. Lobov said was prompted by Mr. Listyev's killing, the Security Council also discussed the need to improve the training of investigators.

The council, which condemned the Interior Ministry, Security Police and prosecutors for falling down on the job, said no improvement had been seen in the fight against crime.

Mr. Lobov said 2.6 million crimes were committed last year, including 32,000 mur-

ders, of which about a million were unsolved.

The total number of crimes had fallen by about 100,000 from 1993 but the number still not solved had risen.

Three suspected hired killers have been detained for questioning over the slaying of Mr. Listyev, police said Tuesday.

Quoted by the news agency ITAR-TASS, they said the three men had recently arrived in Moscow from Siberia and were also suspected of killing several oil industry executives in the Russian capital.

Kremlin officials, police and the media all maintain that Mr. Listyev, 38, was the victim of a contract killing organised by businessmen who were trying to block television advertising reforms aimed at ending massive corruption.

## Election violence kills 11 people in India

**NEW DELHI (R)** — At least 11 people died in election-related violence in two Indian regions as the eastern state of Orissa went to the polls Tuesday in a fresh test for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party.

Six people, including three candidates and a Railway Police constable, were killed Monday during the first phase of local elections in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, police said.

At least five people died in a clash between suspected Maoist extremists and villagers in the eastern state of Bihar, local news agencies reported.

Nearly 50 people have been killed in Bihar, where the Federal Election Com-

mission had postponed assembly polls to give the state time to deploy thousands of security troops. Voting will start Saturday.

The Bihar government replaced a senior bureaucrat and the state police chief Monday after the Election Commission complained that lack of coordination between the two had jeopardised security.

Campaigning in Bihar, Tuesday, Mr. Rao said the replacement of the two officials "spoke volumes about the breakdown of law and order in the state," the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Mr. Rao accused the opposition Janata Dal state

government of turning the state into a backward region, PTI said. He said 25,000 people had been killed there since the last assembly elections in 1990, adding: "At least Bihar is in the forefront in one sphere."

Bihar and Orissa are among six states holding assembly elections that are considered crucial to Mr. Rao's government.

Voting began peacefully Tuesday in Orissa, where 58,000 police were deployed in sensitive areas, state officials said.

The state elections have no direct bearing on the composition of parliament in New Delhi, but Mr. Rao's authority was shaken when his ruling Congress Party suffered

defeats in three of four states that held elections late last year.

Last month Congress emerged as the largest party in the small northeastern state of Manipur, the only state in the current round of polls where votes have already been counted.

But it rules over a hung assembly, and a coalition of other parties in Manipur has challenged Congress's grip on power.

Congress is expected to stay in power in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, but to lose control over the Western state of Gujarat and remain in the opposition in Orissa and Bihar.



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## Litmus test of faith

THE ADDRESS delivered by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the opening session of Tuesday's meeting on the fate of the Palestinians displaced by the 1967 war was more of a lesson in obfuscation than a real attempt to solve the issue at hand. Not that it came as any surprise, since Israel has been doing its best to veil its commitment to accepting the right of all displaced Palestinians to return to their homes or receive compensation as a matter of individual choice.

The Israelis are mistaken if they seriously think that confusing and stalling on the right of return is the answer to solving the difficult issues that lie ahead on the road to comprehensive and lasting peace. They should know that without respecting their own commitment and international legitimacy, the climate conducive to achieving breakthroughs will never materialise.

We hope we are wrong, but we think that what Mr. Peres sought to do in the Amman meeting on Tuesday was to undermine the Palestinians' right of return by raising ambiguous questions over numbers, modalities, timetables, and by appealing to the international community to help build infrastructure to absorb them without making a definite Israeli commitment to respect U.N. resolutions and accords with the three Arab parties he was meeting with.

Little consideration was given to the commitments Israel undertook in its Camp David agreement with Egypt, its declaration of principles with the Palestinians and the peace treaty it signed with Jordan in October, we thought.

We have no quarrel with the Israeli argument that the return of the displaced Palestinians should take place in an orderly fashion without disrupting the stability of any of the parties involved. We also do realise how difficult it is to imagine the massive return of hundreds of thousands of people in one go to a land which lacks the basic infrastructure and holds out all prospects of a socio-economic upheaval in the event of a huge infusion of people. But that does not mean that the sacred right of return can be compromised.

What we would have liked to hear from Mr. Peres is simple and clear: Israel recognises and respects the right of the Palestinians who were forced to flee their homes during the 1967 war and that it is ready to work out the modalities and timetables for their return home in a well-organised manner.

Beyond such a commitment, the reality is that an Israeli pledge that it would respect the Palestinians' rights and is ready to allow their return home, would have gone a good way towards shoring up the sagging support on Arab streets for the autonomy accord. By sending an unmistakable message that Israel intends to place as many obstacles as possible in the way of achieving Palestinians' legitimate rights, Israel can only retard the cause of peace.

This is a crucial phase in which everybody has to show good faith. The Israelis, who have always sought to win confidence-building measures from the Arabs, have to prove they are ready with theirs. It should not be too difficult for them to honour their own commitments as far as the issue of the displaced Palestinians is concerned.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST for Al Ra'i Arabic daily attacked the U.S. administration for trying to starve and murder the Iraqi people and for finding excuses to perpetuate the U.N. sanctions. The U.S. administration lies to the world when it says that it is imposing a blockade on the Iraqis to force a change of government in Baghdad, because the same administration is imposing an embargo also on the Kurds in the north, Tareq Masarweh said. The Americans who committed crimes in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with their atomic bombs, are intent on repeating the crime and murdering 18 million Arabs and Kurds, the writer said. What is clear now is Washington's desire to control the destiny of the Iraqi people by imposing further humiliation on the Iraqis and trying to seize their oil wealth and secure business solely for the American firms. Blaming Turkey for not doing enough to end the embargo that has cost Ankara \$20 billion in lost business so far, the writer said that Turkey is paying the price of aligning itself with the Western coalition in the war against Iraq.

DISCUSSING a meeting in Amman by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Al Dustour daily said that the talks which focus on the destiny of displaced Palestinians were of paramount importance for the peace process to achieve success. Israel was being put to the test again and the Arab parties, which had already reached a common stand over the repatriation of the Palestinians, would be watching to see if Israel was committed to the implementation of the declaration of principles reached with the PLO, said the paper. The meeting in Amman assumed significance not only because it was held at the foreign ministers level but rather due to the crucial question at hand, the paper noted. Indeed, if Israel failed to live up to its commitments and implement its deals with the Arabs on the basis of justice and right, the whole peace process could be jeopardised.

## Washington Watch

# The necessity for pressure on administration

By Dr. James Zogby

THE ISSUE of whether or not to use public pressure to affect Israeli government actions and/or policies is one that confronts every U.S. administration.

On the single issue of granting \$10 billion in loan guarantees to the Israeli government in 1991, the Bush administration used such pressure. The effect of this tactic on the U.S. Jewish community was somewhat traumatic, but it succeeded in forcing a debate within the Israeli body politic, and ultimately achieved a democratic change of government in Israel.

While many of Israel's supporters continue to deny that Bush's actions contributed to Yitzhak Rabin's victory over Yitzhak Shamir and the Likud, there is no doubt that the question of the worsening of U.S.-Israeli relations brought on by Mr. Shamir's policy fit in with Mr. Rabin's campaign themes and played an important role in his electoral success.

The fight over the loan guarantees, however, was a single exceptional act of the U.S. administration. As soon as Mr. Rabin was elected, the Bush administration approved the loan guarantees to Israel on terms that provided significant loopholes in implementation. In doing so, Mr. Bush failed to take advantage of the change in attitude his action achieved, actually giving the Israelis more generous terms than the Congress wished to impose.

The question of whether or not to use public pressure in dealing with Israel has been an issue for President Bill Clinton as well.

In 1992, seeking to establish the differences he had with the Bush administration, then Democratic candidate for President Clinton remarked that as president, he would not use public pressure to alter Israeli behaviour. Specifically concerning Israeli settlements and the question of guaranteeing loans for Israel, Mr. Clinton stated: "Certainly the settlement policy (of the Israeli government) has not been helpful to the peace process," but "what I do in private is different from what I would do in public."

In fact, on most Middle East issues, candidate Clinton (and, since the election, President Clinton) has followed the same basic approach outlined by his predecessor in the White House. The one glaring difference is that one-time use of public pressure by the Bush administration on the Shamir government.

Mr. Clinton's commitment to refrain from using public pressure has characterised the way his administration has dealt with the Middle East peace process since the 1992 election.

During his confirmation hearings before the Senate, U.S. designate ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk spoke of this commitment as one of the five operating principles that the Clinton administration has "established for the conduct of relations with the state of Israel."

In his Senate testimony Mr. Indyk, who for the past two years served as director of Near East and South Asian Affairs on President Clinton's National Security Council, said: "The fourth guiding principle is that in pursuing this peace, and in recognition of the fact that Israel is our democratic ally with which we share common values and common interests, this administration will work with the government of Israel, not against it. Where we have differences, as is inevitable, even with the closest of allies, we will work them out in private, and we do work them out in private."

While this policy has its strong supporters within the admini-

stration, there are also some who question it as well. But the proponents of no pressure hold sway in the policy debates. Their view is based both on their perception of what they view as "real politics" (after all, they might suggest, look at the political price Mr. Bush paid for his one-time act of alienating Israel's supporters) and a deeply held belief that given the volatility of Israeli politics, more can be accomplished with quiet diplomacy. I believe that both of these viewpoints are misguided.

An analysis of the U.S.-Israeli relationship since the election of Mr. Rabin in mid-1992 shows a remarkable consistency between the Bush-Baker and the Clinton-Christopher tenures. When necessary, Mr. Clinton denied Israel and its supporters favours they sought. For example convicted spy Jonathan Pollard was not released, the sale of supercomputers to Israel was denied, and Mr. Indyk himself took a strong stand in cautioning the U.S. Senate against taking steps to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

Even Secretary of State Warren Christopher's handling of Mr. Rabin's outrageous expulsion of 400 Palestinians to Lebanon bore a strong similarity to Mr. Baker's ultimate compromise with Mr. Rabin on the issue of settlements and loan guarantees. In both cases, the U.S. agreed to accept short-term violations of rights in an effort to secure long-term Israeli compliance with a principle.

While the Clinton administration does prod Israel on a regular basis, it does so very quietly and out of public view on issues affecting the peace process and Israel's relationship with the Palestinians.

And, of course, the fact remains that the peace process is in deep trouble. New settlements are being built, Arab Jerusalem has become a virtual no-man's land, and Israel's extreme preoccupation with security has frustrated even the most modest Palestinian hopes for peace.

Intense public pressure, both Israeli and American, is placed on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to take stern measures against his domestic opposition — and not only those who commit acts of violence. And today the right-wing opposition in Israel is the driving force in that country's political debate: that is, while the Rabin government attempts to hold its line, it is forever responding to Likud attacks on its policies and challenges to its legitimacy. As a result, Mr. Rabin is frequently forced to accommodate this pressure from the right by shifting his policy rightward.

All of this is, in fact, due to the absence of U.S. pressure on Israel and its policies which negatively impact chances for peace. Such U.S. pressure, if applied would once again force the Israelis themselves to debate their actions affecting the peace process, and could actually provide a counterweight in Rabin's favour against the Likud charges.

Not all of Mr. Clinton's advisors or supporters of Israel agree with University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Professor Steven Spiegel (who advised the Clinton foreign policy team during the 1992 presidential election). Speaking recently at a forum at the UCLA School of Law, Professor Spiegel spoke favourably of what he termed the Clinton administration's "laissez faire" stance towards the peace process, and contrasted it with what he called the negative Bush-Baker interventionist

policy. It was this "hands-off" approach which Dr. Spiegel credited with bringing the Israelis and PLO to Oslo, bringing the Israelis and Jordanians together, and so on.

While I would argue vehemently against this view, it is important to note that not all Israelis or even Jewish American Clinton advisors agree with Dr. Spiegel's assessment.

At an earlier time in the peace process (November of 1992), Israeli columnist Ran Kiesel wrote in Ha Izret of the need for U.S. public pressure to move Israel towards a peace settlement. Mr. Kiesel wrote, in part: "A government moving in such a direction will have to face tremendous domestic pressure, not only from the settlers, who are threatening civil war, or the Likud, which is ready to lead thousands into the streets, but pressure from within the government and Labour's blyd hawkish camp. The government will need counterpressure, not necessarily of the kind inherent in the empty threats of Peace Now. What is needed is pressure from a position of strength — that is, U.S. pressure."

Professor Michael Mandelbaum, another 1992 Clinton advisor, has also noted earlier examples of successful U.S. public pressure leading Israeli governments to do what they needed to do. Describing U.S. pressures on Israel in 1975 to achieve a disengagement agreement with Egypt, Professor Mandelbaum observed:

"Israel's leaders were not altogether unhappy with (U.S.) pressure. They wanted agreement with their neighbours... but this required concessions and the Israeli public was wary of surrendering territory... The government found it convenient to blame American pressure, which they could say left them no choice but to yield."

In the absence of a strong public critique of Israeli actions — Palestinians — and Israelis, who want this peace process to work, stand defenceless against an angry public opinion that is incited by the demagoguery of the leaders of the Israeli right wing.

The distortion in the Palestinian and Israeli societies which result from this absence of pressure on Israel has in turn set the stage for a tragedy. The window of opportunity that exists for the peace process is rapidly closing. It will not be so easy to recapture the hope brought on by the handshake on the White House lawn almost 18 months ago.

If this moment passes, I fear that there will be serious negative consequences for the entire region and for the U.S. role in the Middle East. There are those in the administration who truly understand the nature and the depth of this crisis and the urgency of the response it requires.

Of all the tools at their disposal to combat this crisis, the mechanism of public pressure is glaring in its absence. In an effort to bring it to bear on the problem, it is worth noting that such pressure need not be negative and critical. It could be positive and constructive — but it must be used. It would be an important complement to the other political and economic assets in the administration's arsenal.

It is essential that such pressure be brought into the equation. Because only a strong external pressure can alter the negative public debate that is disabling both the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships. And only a change in the distorting debate in Israel can restore a sense of hope and a vision of the possibilities of peace.

## U.S. leaders differ on world role

What role should the U.S. assume in the new world order era? Walter R. Mears of the Associated Press analyses the question:

WASHINGTON — When Washington's three most powerful figures defined visions of America's world role, they talked like allies on the need for U.S. leadership but sounded like rivals on where and how to enforce it. President Bill Clinton complained of new isolationists, aiming at Republicans, an accusation that is sure to resound through his campaign for a second term next year.

Bob Dole, leader of the new Republican majority in the Senate, came with a list of what he deems missteps by the administration. He said pre-emptive military action could one day be needed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. Mr. Dole seeks the Republican nomination to challenge the president in 1996.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Republican who says he is not running for president, was in his professorial mode. He concentrated on economic and other common interests as the way to weld a high-technology world. But he also declared that "the United States must lead, period" with tough-minded policies and a military so powerful as to dominate whenever it must.

While the president took on isolationism, the real debate isn't over U.S. power and leadership but, rather, whether to proceed internationally or unilaterally, with Americans picking the spots and calling the shots.

Mr. Clinton took the occasion, a conference sponsored by the Richard M. Nixon Library, to underline the point that he's in charge and he'll make the decisions. He announced one on the spot, the withdrawal of 200 tonnes of nuclear weapons materials from the U.S. stockpile to show his commitment to a strengthened and permanent nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Earlier, after conferring with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, Mr. Clinton dealt with his chief dispute with the House Republicans, saying he intends to keep the United States involved in U.N. peacekeeping missions and not "walk away as some suggest we should" in Congress.

"It is a policy that under our constitution I can pursue as long as I am the president," he said, adding that Congress could deny him the funds.

The House has voted to cut

the U.S. contribution to U.N. peacekeeping, and to restrict Mr. Clinton's authority to use U.S. troops under foreign commanders. Mr. Gingrich was vehement about imposing those restrictions, part of a Republican foreign policy bill the White House has threatened to veto if it gets there. That's up to the Senate, sure to revise the measure if it passes at all.

The speaker didn't mention that disputed issue at the policy conference; he said there's a need "to erase the board" and change old systems to deal with a new world, on matters of defence, technology and, particularly, trade. He suggested a free trade zone encompassing Europe as well as North America. And he said the alternative to U.S. world leadership is "a dark and bloody planet" in the 21st century.

"I am always curious when there is some presumption we are in any way isolationist," he said.

There is. "You get the impression that there is a certain tendency toward isolationism, stepping back somewhat from the international scene," Mr. Kok said at the White House last week. "And that would be very risky, to put it mildly."

Mr. Clinton warned against it at the Nixon conference. "There is a struggle going on between those of us who want to carry on the tradition of American leadership and those who would advocate a new American isolationism," he said.

No names, and he said the tendency spans party lines. He then called it hypocritical to trumpet American strength while opposing its use in places like Haiti — as Mr. Dole does — and U.N. peacekeeping.

Mr. Dole's line was toughest, notably on nuclear spread. "Preventive military action as a non-proliferation policy tool cannot be ruled out," he said. "Like it or not, it cannot be ruled out." He called Mr. Clinton's misguided, "Russia first policy" that papers over major policy differences.

He said the administration is timidly pleading rather than voting a veto if there is an attempt to ease U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

"The senator is simply misinformed," said Mr. Clinton's national security adviser, Anthony Lake.



## Death toll list reminds Algerians that the worst is still to come

By John Baggaley  
Reuters

NICOSIA — The chilling statistic of slaughter released for the first time by Algeria's military authorities at the weekend — 6,388 civilians slain in one year — is only a bloody signal of worse to come, diplomats said on Sunday.

Algeria's security forces, whose own death toll in the grim war against Muslim fundamentalists is rigorously suppressed, issued the list without comment as Eid Al Fitr, one of the Muslim country's main festivals, ended.

"They are trying to get the people on their side and prepare them for more vicious attacks to come," said one Western diplomat in the region who has closely followed the three-year-old Algerian conflict.

"For such figures, it was a very bland announcement. It will be interesting to see if they follow up in the next few days."

The death toll just of civilians, which another diplomat termed a "vast underestimation," showed that in 1994 more than 17 ordinary Algerians were killed every single day.

No segment of Algeria's 26-million, largely poverty-stricken population, was

safe. The dead included 21 journalists murdered, 682 civil servants, 101 teachers, 2,207 workers, 1,384 of the unemployed who form more than one-fifth of those of working age.

Seven top officials were also gunned down, along with 15 magistrates, 52 mosque preachers or imams, the leaders of two political parties, a singer and a regional wali, or governor.

"The security forces are losing the battle," said another diplomat. "But maybe the authorities think that by putting out the figures they can show the danger facing ordinary people and that if they don't back the authorities it will be even worse."

Already this year, the toll has soared among civilians. Deaths have come suddenly, anywhere. Like last Friday when 15 men broke into a Palestinian student's home east of Algiers, dragged him out and slit his throat, dumping his body 100 yards away.

In sunlit, crowded Port Said Square in the centre of the capital, where last month in the early afternoon the national theatre director was gunned down outside his own theatre.

Or in a Kabyl mountain village where a taxidriver

was buried alive. Beheadings, shootings, bombings, torture, and the slitting of throats — of men, women and even children, lie behind the unemotional figures cited by the security forces and carried on the official news agency APS.

According to Western estimates late last year, at least 30,000 people have been killed since violence erupted after the authorities in January 1992 scrapped a general election that Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win.

Many more have been killed this year, including at least 42 officially acknowledged dead in a January suicide bomb carried out in central Algiers by the feared armed Islamic group (GIA).

The GIA, which hijacked an Air France plane after a French crackdown on Islamists in France, at the weekend warned Belgium of reprisals if men detained in a similar swoop were not freed.

"There seems no immediate prospect of them lacking the means to continue their fight," said one diplomat recently. "They also have a well-structured support system — transport, medical supplies, bomb-making facilities. One big worry is on the other side — equipment and ammunition for the armed forces."

"A lot is being stolen by the Islamists and the Algerians are not finding too many people to sell to them."

Zeroual's plan to hold presidential elections this year — effectively telling the people they have no choice, between that or continuing to be killed," he said.

Diplomats say that despite efforts by France, Germany and Belgium to crack down on arms supplies and a logistical network to the GIA and the other main armed group, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the groups seem to have no shortage of weapons.

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"A lot is being stolen by the Islamists and the Algerians are not finding too many people to sell to them."



## Palestinian television still going through birth pangs

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP)** — Three months after Palestinian television began broadcasting, hardly anyone can pick up the pictures as negotiations drag on with Israel over transmitter sites, frequencies and equipment imports.

Western aid has proved barely a trickle while talks with the Jewish state about frequencies and setting up transmitters have bogged down and Israeli customs hold up the arrival of free equipment.

But the setbacks have not undermined the determination of Radwan Abu Ayash, the director of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC).

"I really believe that all Palestinians will be able to watch Palestinian television before the end of the year," he told AFP.

The PBC was conceived with the 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy followed by a formal agreement to set up the service signed on Feb. 25 last year.

Staff worked for 18 months on a volunteer basis to get the project off the ground.

As the PBC still has no budget, salary advances have been paid recently by the Palestinian Authority. Journalists receive about \$400 a month.

"We want to set up our headquarters in Ramallah because the town is the only one which is high enough for our broadcasts to cover all the West Bank," Mr. Abu Ayash said.

"Israel has not agreed and insists that the headquarters

## Shin Bet concerned over report of comptroller

**TEL AVIV (AP)** — Israel's security service, the Shin Bet, is reorganising its interrogations division and trying to end the use of force during questioning, a senior security source said.

The Yediot Aharanot daily said Monday that a secret report prepared a month ago by state comptroller Miriam Ben-Forat criticised the agency's interrogation methods and said it continued a practice of covering them up.

A top official in Shin Bet confirmed that the agency was concerned the comptroller's report would lead to a criminal investigation of some of the interrogators and their superiors.

"The whole issue embarrasses the Shin Bet," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The revelations came a week after former Shin Bet chief Yacov Perry, whose identity had been a secret during his seven-year term, retired and was revealed to the general public.

On Monday Mr. Perry testified behind closed doors before parliament's comptroller committee. He told Channel Two Television that the leaked report in the newspaper was "very grave," but refused to provide any other details from his testimony.

Security sources said agency lawyers were already preparing a defence in case Mr. Ben-Forat decided to recommend that charges be pressed against Mr. Perry.

The report focuses on the years 1989 to 1992, when Mr.

## Environment expert freed on bail in Lebanon

**BEIRUT (AFP)** — An environmental expert arrested for allegedly giving false testimony on Lebanon's toxic waste scandal was released on bail Monday, legal officials said.

Pierre Malichef was arrested a week ago by the judge in charge of an investigation into the entry of 16,000 barrels and 20 containers of toxic waste into Lebanon from abroad in 1987-1988.

Mr. Malichef, who also serves as a state consultant, was accused of spreading false information, fabricating evidence and inciting others to deform the truth.

He encouraged witnesses to state that their illnesses were brought about by toxic substances despite medical reports to the contrary," the official news agency ANI reported.

Mr. Malichef was said in a television debate that toxic waste was scattered around the whole country.

A legal official said Mr. Malichef was released after retracting his initial statement.

Mr. Malichef, who is in his

## Where Algerian elite shelter from winds of war

By Robert Fisk

**CLUB DES PINS** — The war doesn't exist at the Club des Pins. Not on the beach, where the spray and gritty sand lash into the middle-class families in their woollen scarves and fur-lined boots and French coats; not on the promenade where lines of new Peugeots and Mercedes and BMWs stand in the evening sun. Behind the security gates below the presidential palace, row after row of new homes — villas and hastily-purchased portable buildings — provide the government elite, the journalists and officials and writers of this country, with their only Shangri La, a tiny enclave of safety from the hurricane winds gusting across Algeria.

Outside those gates with their Kalashnikov-toting policemen, outside the 9ft high walls topped with steel and barbed wire that shield the men and women most hated by the Islamists of Algeria, cluster the afternoon day-trippers from Algiers, seeking solace in the shadow of the privileged and the well-protected. Shopkeepers, engineers, students, designers and low-paid government workers walk the beaches. There are no veils on the women; some of them have long floating hair and transparent blouses that show, in a sad 1970s flourish, more than a hint of black bras. Ask almost any of them about the war and a look of dismay and cynicism creeps into their faces.

The official from the nationalised Sonatrach oil company condemns the disgraceful exaggerations of the foreign press, the manipulations of foreign powers, the international plot which has brought "problems" to Algeria. The Algiers technicians ask why journalists want to "create" trouble for Algeria. A civil engineer criticises the political parties



Young Algerian women pass by a burnt out car in Algiers late last year (file photo)

## "I ran out of the shop and down the street. There were bodies everywhere, bits of bodies, limbs, you know!"

bodies, limbs, you know?" And then he stopped speaking and there was silence, an embarrassment of sorts, as if the four young men were somehow responsible for this, for admitting to a foreigner that, yes, it is all true, the violence of Algiers. The same troubled silence had followed the admission of a friend whose neighbour had been killed in the same explosion and who, at her friend's funeral, had been told of a baby's arm found in the upper storey of an office opposite the police station. "They never found out which baby the arm belonged to," she said. "What can you do with

a printing plant. It was a day out, he said, in the safety of the Club des Pins, where there were lots of policemen. There were the usual criticisms of the old FLN dictatorship, the impossibility of talking to Islamists, the suggestion that things had been much exaggerated abroad. had he seen any violence, he asked?

There was another long pause. "Yes." Where? "On a road." What happened? His reluctance collapsed. "I was driving into town, down the motorway into Algiers. It was a normal day, a normal morning. And there was a body on the side of the road, just lying there in some blood. A young man, maybe 24. I don't know why it happened or who he was. I never found out."

And then there was a tough Kahyle of 39 with a pretty Russian wife, whose best friend, a girl called Larissa, had been shot dead in Algiers in December. "If the Islamists take over, it will be the same as it was before," he said. "One dictatorship follows another, you know. Yes, we know violence. There was my wife's friend; and the father and son of my neighbours had their throats cut at a faux barrage (a fake police check point) near Tizi Ouzou."

"My nephew was an Islamist but he agreed to perform his military services so another Islamist, one of his own friends, executed him. He was shot. They do their victims a favour when they shoot them rather than cut their throats. Yes, we have considered going to Russia to live."

His wife said she never left her home now for fear of being murdered. She came out just occasionally, to the safety of the Club des Pins. — The Independent.

## Meeting falls short of expectations

(Continued from page 1)

of 100 families in line with the family reunification programme as a confidence-building measure.

According to these officials, Israeli reservations about the return of displaced persons centred around an agreement that the occupied territories were not economically prepared or had the physical infrastructure to absorb the newcomers.

"I believe the result was modest and there were attempts by the Israeli side to complicate the issue to prevent the activation of the article on the mechanism and modalities for the return of the displaced persons," said Mr. Kabarti.

He said the Arab side had insisted that the repatriation take place during the timeframe of the transitional period of the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles. Mr. Kabarti did not say whether Israel had agreed to this timeframe.

"We hope that the next meeting will achieve what is expected and hoped for," said Mr. Kabarti, who stressed that peace would be meaningless without the right to return of the Palestinians scattered around in the Arab World.

Given that the Arab parties and Israel remain far apart on the very basic question — the number of displaced persons — observers had not expected the meeting to announce immediate solutions to one of the most sensitive issues on the negotiating table.

The Arab countries estimate the number of displaced at around 850,000. Israel puts the number at around 200,000 and the United Nations estimates that up to 700,000 persons fall into this category.

The formation of the committees to tackle the technical aspects related to the issue of displaced persons, including the number, criteria to be used to define eligibility for repatriation, modalities for their repatriation was seen by some as a necessity to begin finding a solution to the problem.

The delegates, who were hosted by His Majesty King Hussein for a working lunch, opened the meeting at the Hashemiyah Palace with speeches stating their positions as to the requirements for a solution to the thorny issue.

From the onset, differences between the Arab parties and Israel over the approach to the solution were apparent.

While Israel tried to sidestep international law pertaining



(Anti-clockwise) Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation official Nabil Shaath meet at the Al Hashemiyah Palace on Tuesday (Photo by Yusef Alian)

## Following is the full text of the final statement of the meeting:

**DELEGATIONS** from Israel, the PLO, Jordan and Egypt met in Amman on March 7th, 1995, as the Continuing Committee for the purpose of deciding by agreement the modalities of admission of Palestinians displaced from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder and other matters of common concern.

The ministerial meeting based its frame of reference on the DoP and its Annexes, and Agreed Minutes, and on parallel clauses pertaining to displaced persons in the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty, and in the Camp David Accords.

THE four parties agreed on the structure of the Continuing Committee for the displaced persons, and other matters of common concern, which would meet at ministerial and technical levels. With regard to the technical level, it was agreed that each delegation is to be composed of three permanent members at senior level, joined by experts as needed. The venue of the meetings of the technical committee would be by rotation. The first meeting will be convened within a month from today. Thereafter, meetings will be held normally every three weeks. Meetings at the ministerial level will be held by rotation every two/three months. The technical level will report to the ministerial level.

RELEVANT confidence-building measures shall be discussed in the Continuing Committee.

THE Ministerial Committee reaffirms its commitment to the speedy solution of this question to enhance the peace process.

## Rabin pledges to continue talks

(Continued from page 1)

to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who represented Israel at the refugee negotiations in Amman.

Judith Tayar, a spokeswoman for the settlers council, said the protest was meant to dramatise fears of refugees streaming back and claiming property now owned by Jews.

"We wish the Israeli public to be aware of the dangers of having one million people come in," she said. "Although this is a dramatization, we are taking it very seriously that a possibility like this could actually happen."

## 'Christopher has no new ideas'

(Continued from page 1)

not indefinitely, as Washington wants — because the Jewish state has not signed it.

Israeli officials have expressed dismay at what they see as an ill-timed Egyptian move. But U.S. officials said the two countries were working to overcome their differences, and one said: "We do not see Egypt as having adopted a hostile posture."

## King stresses need for serious work

(Continued from page 1)

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, deputy

presented all the necessary papers and documents which will then be presented to the minister for approval.

"The minister is the one who has the authority to grant a licence," Mr. Amin said.



# CBJ indirectly steers interest rates upwards

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), in a continuing bid to check any significant conversion of Jordanian dinars into foreign currency, is keeping up with the rise of interest rates on the U.S. dollar by indirectly hiking local interest rates, bankers said Tuesday.

The stability of a higher yield on dollar deposits over deposits in American dollar could also be translated into an appreciation of the Jordanian currency through a carefully-charts measure that would not adversely affect the market, some bankers say.

This week's CBJ announcement that it was auctioning certificates of deposits (CDs) worth JD 20 million was seen by the bankers as a key CBJ strategy to ensure that interest rates on deposits in dinars remain higher than the U.S. dollar.

They noted that the CBJ, since early February when the interest rates of dollars started going up in Jordan, had sought to hike the yields in dinar deposits offered by commercial banks by releasing its own instruments that carry higher interest.

"The prime objective of the central bank is to make the dinar attractive against the dollar and thus check deposits in dinars to be converted into the American currency through maintaining the gap between interest rates on dollars and dinars," said a leading banking official.

The international interest rates on dollar deposits went up from around four per cent in mid-1994 to 6.5 per cent in March as the American government implemented a series of policies aimed at controlled economic growth.

During the same period, interest rates on dinar deposits in Jordan went up from around six per cent to 8.5 per cent as the CBJ sought to

retain the relative attraction of the Jordanian currency to investors.

However, some bankers also believe that it is time for an appreciation of the dinar against the dollar and thus also address a problem of liquidity in the market caused by the diversion of funds into certificates of deposits.

The bankers cite official figures that show that Jordanian commercial banks hold about JD 5.23 billion in deposits, including JD 1.91 billion held in foreign currency.

"The statistics show that credits offered by commercial banks stand at around JD 3.32 billion against dinar deposits worth JD 3.24 billion" — excluding the JD 1.91 billion deposits in foreign currency — said a banking executive who deals with investments.

"Considering that 14 per cent of all commercial bank deposits have to be deposited with the central bank, the statistics clearly show that some banks have borrowed from others to offer credit to their customers," noted the executive, who preferred not to be identified.

"As such there is clearly a problem of liquidity," said the executive. "The best way to address the problem is to allow for an appreciation of the dinar in a very calculated way that takes into consideration all aspects of market impact."

According to this line of thinking, an appreciated dinar would automatically lure dollar deposits into dinar deposits and result in higher liquidity with the commercial banks.

The other side of the equation is an inevitable decrease in exports, which some bankers accuse others of ignoring.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Nahulsi said late last year that the dinar could easily stand up against an appreciation but he did not want to allow for an appreciation be-

cause such a move would adversely affect the Kingdom's quest for export-led monetary growth.

In any case, he said, the existing exchange rate value of the dinar was clearly dictated by supply and demand and that the CBJ did not find it necessary to intervene in the market.

Reporting the latest certificates of deposits auction, Reuters said Monday that interest yields on certificates of deposits sold last week had remained unchanged from the previous week's eight to 8.5 per cent on the three-month paper.

Yields on six month certificates were at a high of 8.50 per cent, also unchanged from a week earlier.

Officials said most bids accepted were in the lower end of the yield range.

Banks, needing cash to meet customer needs for the Muslim Eid Al Fitr feast that ended on Sunday, had less liquidity to invest in last week's CDs.

Customers withdrew an estimated JD 25 million before the four-day religious holiday that began last Thursday, bankers said.

Liquidity also was generally tighter with significant bank funds tied in longer term CDs, bankers said.

Closing day for CD bids is on Wednesday, banks are told the results on Thursday and CDs are officially issued on Saturday, minimum purchases are JD 100,000.

Overnight interbank dinar rates — with more CDs absorbing liquidity — rose as high as 9.50 per cent on Monday from an average 9.00 per cent during last week, bankers say.

Repurchase agreement remained unchanged at 9.00 per cent, with some banks selling CDs to get liquidity to relend at 9.50 per cent rates.

The discount rate remained fixed at 8.5 per cent, outstanding dinar CDs are 259 million dinars (\$377 million).

# IMF says no need for tighter market controls

COPENHAGEN (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) head Michel Camdessus said Tuesday that despite market turmoil caused by Mexico's economic crisis there was no need to set up new controls.

"There is the need to avoid yielding to the temptation, which can be brought on by panic, to return to controls and protectionist measures that would only precipitate deeper recessionary effects," the IMF managing director told delegates to the United Nations social summit in the Danish capital.

"Rather than fighting in-

stability of capital movements in that way, we must strive to address their underlying causes, including weak macroeconomic and financial policies and inadequate internal controls of financial institutions," he said.

Mr. Camdessus, and World Bank Vice-President Arneane Choksi both dismissed as unworkable a plan by a U.N. commission on funding to levy a worldwide tax on capital market transactions.

The commission, set up six months ago to seek new ways of funding the debt-ridden world body, issued its first

report on Monday, calling for a 0.001 per cent tax on currency deals which it said would raise \$50 million daily.

"I think it's not going to fly, I think it is a non-starter. It's a tax on speculative capital flows. Who will define what is speculative capital and what is not speculative capital?" Mr. Choksi said at a news conference.

"Governments must face the (funding) problem in a more straightforward way," Mr. Camdessus told another news conference.

Mr. Choksi said that even if the proposed tax looked

like a very small amount it actually represented 20 to 30 per cent of the margins on international currency transactions.

"This could have a very negative impact on private capital flows to developing countries," he said.

Commission members said full details of the tax proposal had yet to be worked out. Their report says that the U.N. needs about \$400 million per month to meet continuing costs and at the end of August 1994 had debts exceeding \$1.7 billion. Membership arrears stood at \$3.2

billion, it added.

"At present there is virtually no cash in the peacekeeping reserve fund and the working capital fund... is virtually depleted," it quoted U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali as saying.

Dr. Ghali opened the week-long summit Monday. In addition to the financial markets levy, the report also proposes taxing air transport, deep ocean fishing and international arms sales and imposing fines on dumpers of toxic waste in international waters.

## Info age is new dark age, expert tells business chiefs

LONDON (R) — The dawn of information age will bring a world where corporations take over from nation states and a tiny elite defends itself from dispossessed masses, a business conference was told Tuesday.

"Some people foresee a new middle ages with a natural state of inequality, with urban areas protected as castles, but electronically," said Professor Ian Angell of the London School of Economics, giving his gloomy view of the decades ahead.

Propelling the world to such a dark future was the growing value of information over all other commodities and the weakening ties between big business and any fixed place.

Information technology, with "tele-working" and video conferencing, would make the office largely redundant except for largely social events for employees to bond as a community and cement their loyalties to the company.

Property prices would crash and corporations move where profit was highest and regulation weakest, Professor Angell, an expert on social effects of information systems, told business leaders.

Professor Angell, opening the one-day seminar on fraud and crime, said nation states would break up as regions dumped poorer areas in the fight to get global business, which would seek the securest haven for its information and prized "knowledge workers."

Global enterprises would see themselves as owners of their staff and demand their undivided allegiance.

State and corporate police would cooperate and merge, as is already seen in parts of the United States, he said.

# Turkish analysts welcome EU deal

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Tuesday welcomed an agreement with EU states on a customs union, but analysts and commentators said the country has much to do to take the deal work in its favour.

"For customs union, everything is only beginning. There are such important decisions and big steps to be taken that a delay can cause Turkey great harm," said prominent European Union (EU) analyst Mehmet Ali Birand in the Sabah daily.

Banner headlines welcomed the deal and most of Turkey's private television stations celebrated the accord sealed by the 15-member EU and Turkey in Brussels Monday.

But the leader of Turkey's main opposition Motherland Party, the Islamists and a

fringe Marxist group opposed the deal which is expected to take effect on Jan. 1, 1996.

"Turkey plunges into a pool but doesn't know if there is water in it," Motherland leader Mesut Yilmaz said Monday.

Mr. Birand and other analysts said failure by Turkey to meet a checklist of obligations to the European Union would undermine potentially large gains from the long-awaited deal.

He called for rapid enactment of laws on intellectual and industrial property rights and a major revision of the constitution to weed out anti-democratic clauses enshrined in the 1982 charter by a military junta then in power.

Sabah columnist Cengiz Candar said opponents of the deal feared European goods would flood the 60-million

Turkish market but failed to see it also gave Turks access to a huge EU market.

"The customs union will inescapably force renewal of Turkish legislation. Under customs union, Yasar Kemal cannot be tried on pain of jail for writing for Der Spiegel," he said.

Mr. Kemal, Turkey's most prominent novelist, is facing a jail term of five years if found guilty of advocating Kurdish separatism for an article in the German weekly.

The European Parliament, expected to endorse the customs union in October, has said it will turn it down unless Turkey removes curbs on freedom of expression and takes steps to improve its poor human rights record.

Turkey has said it is determined to correct abuses and amend its military-era constitution, but reforms have so far remained bogged down in parliament.

Mr. Yilmaz, on a campaign

to topple Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, said her coalition government put Turkey at risk for the sake of its own prestige by signing the accord.

Late president Turgut Ozal, the founder of Motherland and Mr. Yilmaz's one-time mentor, was an ardent believer in the EU and made Turkey's bid for full membership in 1987.

The Muslim-based Welfare Party, which would link Turkey to the Islam World and cut ties to the West, said "it will annul the customs union when we come to power."

"This is colonial rule and capitulation," Secretary-General Oguzhan Asilturk said. "Turkey will be made the site of dirty industry and a pool of cheap labour for Europe."

Chairman of the Marxist Labour Party (I.P.), Dogu Perincek, said the trade deal paved the way for Turkey's colonisation.

# Spanish government slammed over devaluation of peseta

MADRID (R) — Spain's beleaguered socialist government, already hard hit by persistent political scandals, Tuesday came under more heavy opposition fire over a devaluation of the peseta.

Opposition parties of the left and right, who in recent months have repeatedly demanded an early general election, suddenly found themselves with yet another stick with which to beat the government.

But the Catalan Nationalists, whose votes in parliament give Prime Minister

Felipe Gonzalez his majority, pledged to continue backing the government.

Conservative Popular Party economic spokesman Rodrigo Rato zeroed in on the cost of the seven per cent devaluation to the pocket of the man in the street.

"Prices in the shops and interest rates will go up. People will pay more for their credit, for mortgages, if they want to buy a house. That is the price of keeping Felipe Gonzalez in government," Mr. Rato said.

The devaluation was

agreed at a marathon meeting of the European Union monetary committee after days of heavy pressure on the peseta caused by weakness of the dollar.

Mr. Gonzalez himself told reporters in Barcelona the devaluation would not hurt Spain's economic recovery from recession.

It would stimulate exports and tourism and, although imports generally would be dearer, key imports of petroleum products would not be affected, as they were paid for in dollars.

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# Pakistan's leather garments exports drop; 60,000 lose jobs

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan's leather garment exports have sharply declined due to shortage of finished leather, throwing 60,000 people out of jobs, exporters said.

Exports of value-added leather items declined from \$256 million during the second half of 1993 to \$205 million in the same period in 1994, said an official of Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Forum.

S. M. Farrukh said shortage of finished leather in Pakistan had raised prices and made domestic industry less competitive on the world market.

Tanners export leather to competing countries, making it difficult for the manufacturers here to quote competitive prices, he said.

Mr. Farrukh demanded that the government impose a 15 per cent export duty on all types of finished leather to ensure availability of the raw

material for domestic users at reasonable prices.

He said more than 80 per cent of Pakistan's 378 leather garment units were forced to close because of the shortage of finished leather. There are, in addition, 416 footwear manufacturers, 247 medium and small size gloves producing units and 218 sports goods makers.

However, the Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) claimed that about one million square feet of finished leather was available on the domestic market.

PTA Chairman Gulzar Firoz said the prices of finished leather had risen, not only in Pakistan but all over the world, due to increased cost incurred in improving quality.

Leather products including, garments, footwear, gloves and sports goods, made up about 70 per cent of Pakistan's total leather exports.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good morning to talk over with regular associates how best to improve mutual affairs. Big disagreements are tactfully straightened out before going to bed.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't be hasty in a new venture. Consider a change in procedure with a big wig but make sure you have their complete cooperation before going ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan some recreational activity with good friends that will be enjoyed by all this morning. Avoid taking any risks where money is concerned.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) An ideal day to improve the appearance and comfort of your home. Avoid one who has a chip on the shoulder attitude and wants you to listen to all their complaints.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at communications this morning that are important to your well being. An ideal day to study contracts, statements and other important documents.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put your heads together this morning with close associates and study all monetary matters and know how best to improve them. Don't overwork physically or mentally.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Know what your personal wishes really are today, then go after them in a positive way. Do something thoughtful for pals and gain their good will in the afternoon.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Talking over matters with one you admire can bring a fine result this morning. You are able to solve a problem that has bothered you for a long time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have some personal wishes that are important so go after them in a positive way. This is a good day to see friends and associates. Have a pleasant time tonight.

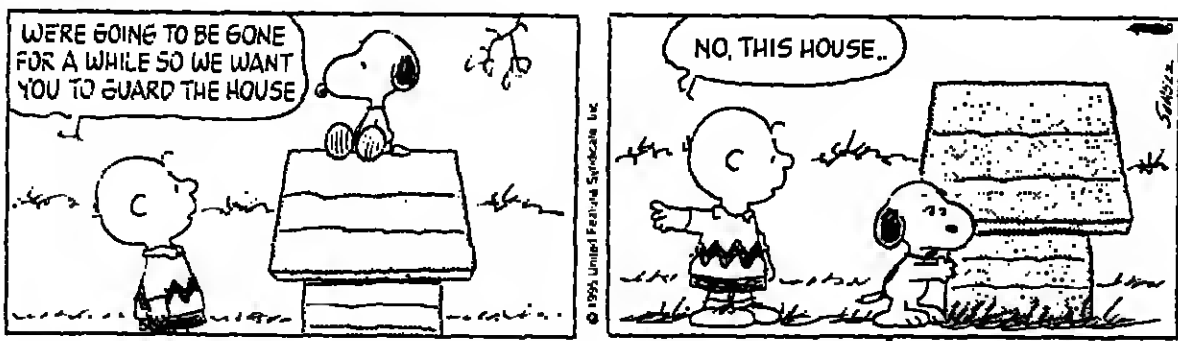
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Talk over an important plan with a higher up and come to the right conclusion this morning and you'll get the support you need. Avoid a time-wasting associate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make arrangements now for a mutual trip with another that you feel is important. Make new friends today with those who can give you added knowledge and experience.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Use your intuitive faculties more and gain your aims more easily at this time. Be more willing to please a loved one today, especially one you are very fond of and who needs your support.

Birthstone of March: Aquamarine — Jasper

## Peanuts



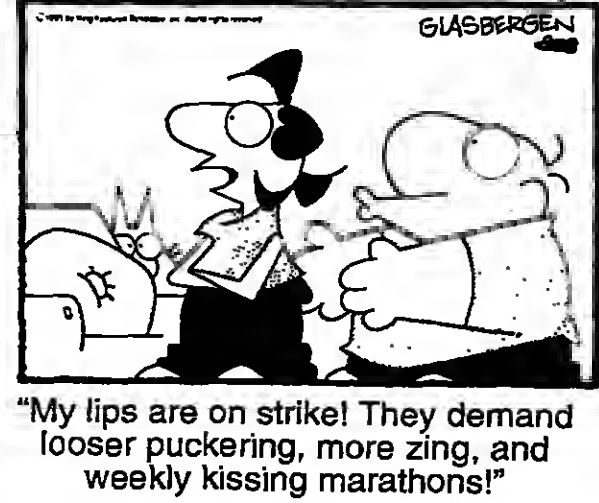
## Andy Capp



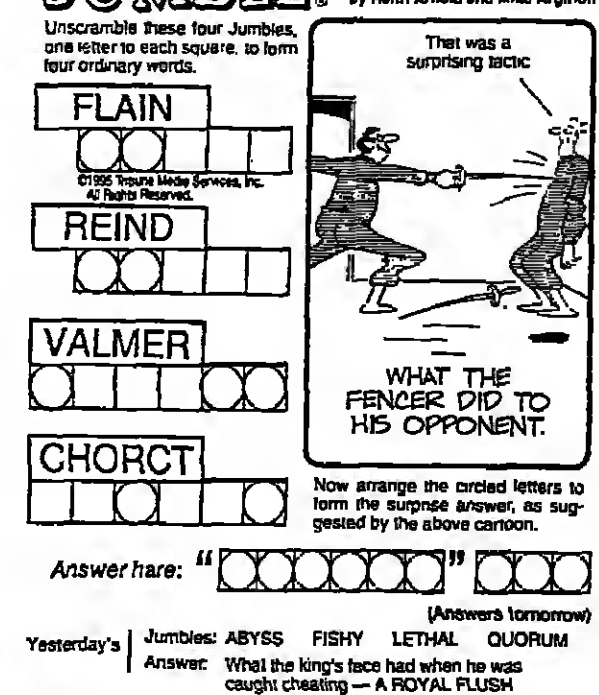
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF



## JUMBLE



## THE Daily Crossword





itrols

**business daily beat**

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Jordan's net foreign currency holdings amount to JD 1.85b

JORDAN'S TOTAL holdings of foreign currencies at the end of 1994 amounted to the equivalent of JD 3,586 million (about \$5,300 million) compared to a total of JD 3,249.8 million at the end of 1993. Of the total, JD 904.3 million were central bank assets (JD 1,689.6 million in 1993). Licensed banks and the equivalent total of JD 681.9 million in foreign currencies at the end of last year compared to JD 1,560.2 million at the end of 1993. The foreign currency liabilities of the banking system at the end of 1994 stood at the equivalent of JD 1,737.6 million compared to JD 1,523.7 million at the end of 1993. Foreign currency liabilities of licensed banks were JD 443.4 million in non-scheduled deposits at the end of last year (JD 1,335 million at the end of 1993). As such, the net balance of foreign currency at the banking system stood at the equivalent of JD 1,848.6 million at the end of 1994 compared to JD 726.1 million at the end of 1993 (Al Dustour).

THE HIGHER Organizational Council has approved licensing 40 new industries outside the limits of cities in various parts of the country. These industries are a JD 120 million of investments and will employ more than 2,500 workers. The council has intensified its activities by meeting three times a week in order to decide on the applications out to it for setting up factories outside city limits. To ensure fast processing of applications, a central committee has been set up representing the ministries of municipalities and rural affairs and the environment, water and irrigation, health, agriculture, interior as well as the Civil Defence Department and the Department of Land and Survey submits its recommendations to the council based on comprehensive studies and on-site checking with special conditions, if needed, be attached to every application (Al Rai).

THE JORDAN Petroleum Refinery Company has prepared an action plan to develop its work. The plan concentrates on organizing operations and restructuring the company's administrative and technical work to maximize the company's efficiency and the refinery's production capacity to enable it to meet the demand on its products at the lowest cost (Al Rai).

A STUDY shows that 9 per cent of those in the aging business are females. Indication that there are more people who encourage men to take begging as a sin. The study reveals that 52.2 per cent of the beggars are married and lead normal life while the percentage of the unmarried in both sexes was only 19.3 per cent. As such, the study indicates that the conditions leading to begging are unemployment and poverty or being accustomed to such a way of living. Beggars from said category account for per cent while 16 per cent are orphans, 8.3 per cent are, eight per cent with a family head and 1.1 per cent without mother care. According to the study, 53 per cent of court measures against the beggars are not a threat as 50 per cent of the beggars have been caught on streets more than once. Greater Amman has largest number of beggars, 406 (478 adults and 548 children) of whom 55 were Jordanian. In Irbid, there are 140 (103 adults and 37 children) and in Zarqa there are 122 (87 adults and 35 children). The number of beggars all over the country given in the study at 1,743 adults and 668 children of whom 60 are Jordanian (Al Aswat).

## Bahrain aluminium firm hikes production

MANAMA (R) — A second production line at Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Company (Baleco) has gone on stream, doubling output capacity to 12,000 tonnes annually, industry sources said Tuesday.

The French firm Clecim had built the 6,000-tonne-a-year second line at a cost of \$9.5 million, they said. It started production in January.

They said Baleco was also negotiating with Clecim and a German firm to build a third production line at an expected cost of around \$10 million. They declined to name the German firm.

Baleco produces extruded products used in manufacturing windows, doors, shop fronts, curtain walls, gates, halustrading and ladders.

The sources said Baleco's board of directors had already approved the construction of the third line which raises its production capacity to around 20,000 tonnes a year by 1996.

Baleco buys raw aluminium from the Bahrain Saudi Marketing Company (Balco), which handles aluminium sales for Aluminium Bahrain BSC (Alba), the biggest Middle East aluminium producer.

Bahrain's government holds a 45 per cent stake in Baleco and private investors mainly in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia own the remaining 55 per cent.

## Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Mar 6/95	Tokyo Close Mar 7/95
sterling pound	1.6339	1.6355**
Deutsche Mark	1.4042	1.4010
Swiss Franc	1.7444	1.7405**
French Franc	4.9740	4.9650**
Japanese Yen	1.0287	1.0286**
European Currency Unit	1.3128	1.3154**

Source: Reuters

European Currency Unit

Source: Reuters

European Currency Unit

Source: Reuters

European Currency Unit

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## Britain taps lucrative Lebanese post-war market

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon's lucrative reconstruction market is attracting more and more British trade delegations and conference on business opportunities in the post-war era.

The Financial Times Conference (FTC) is to hold a seminar in June for top international and Lebanese executives, Tim Kingham of the FTC said at the end of a visit last month.

The London-based Euro-money also plans an investment conference in September to focus on Lebanon's \$12 billion reconstruction programme.

Lord Ullswater, minister of state at the British environment ministry, is to visit in April as part of efforts to encourage investments in Lebanon.

After the 1975-1990 civil war, British business was slow off the mark. It took around 18 months to develop an interest in Lebanon, moving in with such products as ice cream and industrial paint.

A big money-spinner is whisky. "I've never seen so many different kinds of whisky and so unbelievably cheap," said one Scottish businessman, adding that at home he spent around \$18-\$20 for his favourite brew but \$7 in Beirut.

In other sectors, Britain has some catching up to do. Major infrastructure contracts have been awarded to other European countries: Italy (\$626 million, electricity), Germany (\$387 million, airport), Sweden (\$305 million, telephones) and France (\$248 million, electricity and telecommunications).

telecommunications).

"But now we are present everywhere. There isn't a major infrastructure project in which we are not present," said Innes Rae, deputy head of mission at the British embassy in Lebanon.

"Lebanon is a reemerging market. There aren't too many around with all these opportunities and one that offers such a competent and well-organised business community," Mr. Rae said.

Britain's big success story in Beirut has been a \$33 million contract which Trafalgar House — a giant in British construction — clinched for the first phase of building

a sports complex.

The total cost of the project is expected to be worth more than \$100 million, to be financed through Arab grants. The project includes the construction of a 50,000-seat stadium to host the June 1996 Pan-Arab Games.

Several official and private trade delegations from Britain have visited Lebanon since the end of the war and more than 50 British companies are active in the country, many of them in consultancy.

British Airways resumed flights to Beirut last month while a new carrier, British Mediterranean Airways,

made its inaugural flight to Beirut — its only destination — in October.

Despite losing out on the major contracts, British firms managed to secure a \$47 million deal to provide equipment for the electricity network.

British companies are also negotiating to supply safety and security equipment for Beirut international airport, the armed forces and internal security forces.

Consultants have struck deals with several government agencies, providing experts at all levels of Lebanon's post-war reconstruction programme. Companies from Britain

are shortlisted to rebuild the Casino du Liban and the Lebanese University while two firms pre-qualified to build sea-water protections for a landfill in Beirut city centre.

The volume of trade be-

tween Britain and Lebanon has risen from \$97 million in 1992 to about \$150 million in 1994.

According to AFP, a British firm has won a contract to carry out a feasibility study for a \$400 million project.

## Training workshop on ISO 9000 opens

By Khattab Salman

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Out of growing interest in quality specifications for products and services in Jordan, a workshop on the issue of (ISO 9000) certification was opened Tuesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

The two-day workshop aims at providing Jordanian businessmen and industrialists with information about the International Standardisation Organisation's (ISO's) certificate of quality assurance in production and management, and the requirements to be awarded the (ISO 9000).

Since the (ISO 9000) certificate is not confined to the quality of products and services provided to consumers, but also covers areas like management and education, a wide spectrum of Jordanian bodies are taking part in this course ranging from the banking and industrial sectors to the governmental and academic sectors.

So far, only one Jordanian company was awarded the Geneva-based organisation's certificate, Jordan Lift Company was awarded the certificate earlier this year after a long and thorough process of inspections to make sure that products in the final shape meet international standards of quality.

Being awarded this certificate means literally applying certain standards requirements in the manufacturing process from A to Z, encompassing raw material specifications, production management, production process, safety requirements and in the final products, and traceability. In other words, documentation of every step in the procedure.

The workshop is organised by the Arab Management Council and Abu Ghazaleh Consultations, in cooperation with Resource, a British government agency working in the field of providing developing countries with the

service of applying quality assurance systems, and Neville Clarke of the United Kingdom, a private firm working in the field of consultations and quality assurance systems.

Acquiring the international "seal of approval" serves as a vehicle facilitating an easier and more professional access to international markets in the light of free market economies worldwide, and the application of the General Agreement of Tariff and Trade (GATT), which encourages and guarantees access to non-traditional markets, said Malak Annasser of Talal Abu Ghazaleh in the opening ceremony.

She said that all export oriented companies seek to be awarded the ISO certificate due to its important contributions to building national economies based on sound scientific principles that go in harmony with international changes.

She added that being awarded the international certificate would enable Jordanian companies to compete internationally.

The workshop will cover issues like quality assurance procedures and quality management systems, prerequisites for applying the ISO principles, drawing quality policies, and the development of quality assurance procedures and systems.

The workshop will also cover issues like the development of purchasing systems, methods of defining objectives, development of function instructions, and monitoring and control of the documentation process.

According to Raed Khaldi of Abu Ghazaleh Consultations, a second workshop to be held next week will discuss issues of developing the skills of assessors of quality assurance systems, and will include a first hand practical knowledge of the process of quality assurance standards applications which started recently in the Jordan Lift Company.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKETS				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JERUSALEM				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 07/03/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	100	18750	188.750	187.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	10650	47812	4.550	4.470
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	9900	42711	4.370	4.300
BANK OF JORDAN	100	350	3.600	3.500
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	4000	5760	1.520	1.440
THE HOUSING BANK	2950	17902	6.090	6.070
1842	5524	3.000	3.000	
JORDAN GULF BANK	1450	1895	1.360	1.300
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	9171	38219	3.840	3.850
REIT ELAKA SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1600	5000	3.200	3.100
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4100	52747	1.270	1.230
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	11100	15353	1.410	1.380
BANKS SECTOR	96008	249151	INDEX NUMBER: 159.72	CHANGE: -0.25%
JORDAN FRANCH INSURANCE	1050	2641	2.550	2.500
DELTA INSURANCE	250	430	1.640	1.720
INSURANCE SECTOR	1550	3708	INDEX NUMBER: 136.89	CHANGE: -0.23%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	9550	14984	1.580	1.570
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	60450	90965	1.530	1.500
JORDAN RIGGS MINERAL	2477	2477	2.300	2.280
VEHICLE OWNERS FEDERATION	180	1212	6.750	6.750
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	3550	17040	4.810	4.800
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	19700	66236	3.390	3.380
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	250	575	2.340	2.300
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	300	348	1.200	1.160
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	400	1424	3.680	3.560
SERVICES SECTOR	95240	195261	INDEX NUMBER: 131.28	CHANGE: -0.95%
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	210	7098	34.000	33.800
ATTACHMENT CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	550	670	1.250	1.220
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	14737	44115	3.020	2.990
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	200	1010	5.000	5.050
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	320	3028	9.440	9.420
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	100	380	3.900	3.800
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	150	1139	7.600	7.590
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	61100	278195	4.420	4.260
JORDAN OIL	2500	3075	2.050	2.050
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1450	3879	2.700	2.670
RAVIA INDUSTRIES	6450	18317	2.890	2.820
DAIR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	12500	12568	7.960	7.910
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	4100	3879	9.440	9.420
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	69700	51707	7.770	7.740
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2200	3088	1.430	1.410
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	500	1915	3.950	3.830
JORDAN ROCCOOL INDUSTRIES	3250	3985	1.280	1.220
ALADIN INDUSTRIES	650	2730	4.200	4.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	750	588	7.760	7.750
JORDAN, SUPPLY-CHAINS	1600	1564	1.600	1.620
ARAB CENTER FOR PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	200	1512	2.600	2.580
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	2250	9241	4.190	4.100
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	3800	7608	2.120	2.050
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	176167	459641	INDEX NUMBER: 122.27	CHANGE: -0.91%
GRAND TOTAL	368265	907761	INDEX NUMBER: 142.25	CHANGE: -0.87%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		108294		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		126693		

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## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.4172/82	Canadian dollar
	1.3954/64	Deutschemarks
	1.5656/66	Dutch guilders
	1.1676/86	Swiss francs
	28.83/87	Belgian francs
	4.9365/15	French francs
	1636.6/1.6	Italian lire
	91.75/85	Japanese yen
	7.2025/25	Swedish crowns
	6.2230/70	Norwegian crowns
	5.6454/04	Danish crowns
One sterling	1.6123/48	



## Asian U-18 Basketball Championship

## Jordan lose to powerful titleholders, play Japan for semifinal berth today

By Omar Bashtawi  
in Manila  
and Aileen Bannayan  
in Amman

**TITLEHOLDERS** China scored an expected 88-49 victory over Jordan Tuesday in a quarterfinal match to the 13th Asian Basketball Confederation Under-18 Championship currently under way in Manila.

The defeat now means that Jordan will have to beat Japan when they meet today (Wednesday) in order to qualify for the semifinal round and play for the top four places. Otherwise Jordan will play for 5th-8th places.

The relatively inexperienced Jordanian team who were only regrouped two months ago and are playing their first international tournament, were no match for the Chinese who average 196 centimetres and are seeking their fifth title.

China took a 28-6 lead and managed to expand their lead by a series of turnovers before ending the first half 48-13.

The Jordanians played in a more coherent and relaxed manner in the second half and managed to reduce the gap with clever penetrations by Mahmoud Shah and rebounding and inbound scoring by Zeid Alkhas and Ma'an Odeh. The latter again ended the match in a buzzer-beater just as he had secured Jordan's victory in their 72-71 win over the Philippines Monday.



The Jordanian team — A tough task ahead to get to the semifinals

The second half score was 40-36 for China who also beat Japan earlier 78-53.

Jordan's top scorers were: Zeid Alkhas 16, Ma'an Odeh 12, Ashraf Samara 7.

Jordan is the only Arab country taking part in the 15 nation competition. The Kingdom's team had qualified to the quarterfinals after scoring a crushing 71-24 win over Hong Kong and 88-35 over Singapore before losing to top-ranked South Korea 75-61.

In the quarterfinals, Jordan is grouped with China, the Philippines and Japan, while the other quarterfinalist group includes South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Taiwan. The top two teams in each group will qualify for the semifinals. The competition concludes on March 11.

In addition to the hectic daily match schedule, Jordanian delegation officials have been attending Asian confederation meetings.

Jordan will apply to host either the Asian Under-22 Championship in 1996 or the Asian Clubs' Championship in the same year.

India withdrew its bid in favour of Jordan in the U-22 race leaving only China in contention.

Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Chairman Awad Haddad met with the head of the Indian delegation and agreed to set up a series of matches between the two teams. Haddad also received an invitation from the Malaysian delegation inviting the Jordanian team to take part in a charity tournament next month.

Meanwhile, JBF Deputy Chairman Samir Janakat and Secretary Ghaleb Balaawi attended the Asian Mini Basketball meetings during which the Asian teams were divided into 4 groups. Jordan was grouped in the West Asia Zone which includes the Arab Gulf countries, Iran and Kazakhstan.

Jordan's head coaches Murad Barakat and Imad Al Saeed also attended the coaches meetings to choose the best Asian junior players.

## Rivalries key to future of tennis

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Tennis needs new rivalries to thwart prophecies of doom, with Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras hopeful of matching such legends as Bjorn Borg versus Jimmy Connors or Ivan Lendl against John McEnroe.

Agassi's pursuit of world number one Sampras and the women's fight for first between Germany's Steffi Graf and Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario have brought spark to the sport in recent months.

Ten months ago, the U.S. magazine Sports Illustrated asked the cover question "Is Tennis Dying?" The sport's stars reply no, but Agassi uses U.S. basketball players Magic Johnson and Larry Bird to illustrate his point.

"Rivalries make sports thrive," Agassi said. "Magic and Bird turned the NBA around. Our sport needs a rivalry and Pete and I can have it."

Sampras has won seven of 13 career matchups with Agassi entering this week's ATP event in Indian Wells, California. Sampras must defend two titles this month to hold off Agassi's challenge to his 18-month reign.

"I've handled being number one pretty well. I have stayed there a while," Sampras said. "It's one thing to be there and another to stay there."

Differences make the U.S. players logical rivals. Agassi dates actress-model Brooke Shields and thrives on the spotlight and glamour. Sampras found himself nervous when appearing on a popular U.S. talk show.

"It was not really enjoyable," Sampras said. "I would rather play in front of 18,000 spectators than do a talk show."

Some consider the problem solely a U.S. matter, but the ATP is making moves worldwide. Michael Chang leads a programme to boost Asian tennis growth. Players are



Andre Agassi



Pete Sampras

funding a \$1.5 million youth tennis programme. A plan is underway to reduce a glut of European tennis telecasts after this year.

Yet there is concern even in Sweden, which had no player in the top 10 this month for the first time since 1982 when Stefan Edberg fell out. Rising Swedish star Thomas Enqvist considers Sweden's 1994 Davis Cup triumph vital.

"Tennis is on the way down in Sweden," he said. "They expect we should have five of the top 10 like before. But it's not possible. That's why the Davis Cup

was so important. It's important to get everyone excited about tennis again."

Enqvist fights comparison to past Swedish stars.

"No one is going to be new Edberg or new Borg," he said. "You just have to yourself and play as well you can."

Europe remains a tennis stronghold. Attendance was four per cent higher last year at European tournament, reached a record four million worldwide. This year's ATP prize money will reach a record \$64 million.

Women's tennis has been spared. The WTA sees Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova had also been hit by the losses of Monica Seles to a stabbing and Jennifer Capriati to stresses of turning pro too young.

"It's important to create rivalries. That's what's lacking in tennis today," Enqvist said. "Martina and I had a 15-year rivalry. It would be good to have Graf and Sanchez play each other more often. We're trying to structure next season so they play more often."

Another concern is the speed of the game. ATP officials are looking at ways to slow the sport indoors and on grass. Sampras points to the red clay of Roland Garros in Paris when critics say play is too fast.

"You only have to watch the French Open. They have the slowest surface in the world," Sampras said. "It's different when you play there."

The French title is also the lone Grand Slam title neither he nor Agassi have ever claimed.

"Winning the French is of major importance," said Sampras, who will spend two months in Europe before the event. "The reason I am preparing much earlier is because it's so important."

## British racer missing for 4th day

NEW YORK (AP) — British solo racer Harry Mitchell, remained lost at sea for a fourth day Monday, as a merchant ship fought heavy seas to comb the area where his distress beacon had last been sent.

Mitchell's emergency beacon, set off late Thursday night, indicated he was about 1,450 miles (2,320 kilometres) west of South America's Cape Horn in the frigid waters of the Southern Ocean.

That beacon emitted its final transmission about midday Sunday.

Mitchell, at 70 the oldest competitor in the BOC round-the-world race, was one of six sailors still completing the third leg, from Sydney, Australia, to Punta Del Este, Uruguay. Seven other racers have already finished.

The skipper from Portsmouth, England, was also sailing the smallest boat in the race, the class II (13-metre) yacht "Henry Hornblower."

The crew of the Francisca Schulte searched for Mitchell for the second day Monday, amid force 7 winds of 28-to-33 knots and nine-foot seas. Ship master S. Mordovin said he was conducting an "expanding square search" over a 23-square-mile area.

"My crew and I are trying to do our best to locate this brave man," he reported Monday to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Valparaiso, Chile, the organisation responsible for search and rescue missions in the area.

"To attract attention, we sound fog signals and fire rocket parachute flares and hand flares," he added.

The Francisca Schulte had been 480 miles (768 kilometres) to the northwest before it was diverted.

"The ship will continue searching through the night and into tomorrow," race spokesman Dan McConnell said Monday, speaking from Punta Del Este.

## Fernandez beats Zvereva in Evert Cup final

INDIAN WELLS (Agencies) — Eighth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez saw her hard work pay off when she beat fourth seed Nastasia Zvereva of Belarus 6-4 6-3 in the final of the \$430,000 Evert Cup Monday.

The final was originally scheduled for Sunday but persistent light rain forced it to be postponed.

Fernandez, ranked 19th in the world, beat the ninth-ranked Zvereva for the fifth time in as many career meetings and recaptured the title she won here in 1993.

She called her win in the 84-minute match the payoff for all the time she has put in on the practice court recently.

"I have been working very hard and it paid off today because I was able to dictate play," Fernandez said. "My serve got me a few free points at important times and I took advantage of some of her errors. Mentally, I think I was perfect and I'm certainly pleased with the outcome."

Zvereva, who upset top seed and world number one Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain in the semifinals, had patches of brilliant play against Fernandez but could not sustain them.

Zvereva opened a 3-1 lead in the first set with some tricky net play, but she outsmarted herself on a break point, hitting an easy drop volley wide to lose her serve in the sixth game, which allowed Fernandez to pull even at 3-3.

Zvereva said she employed a strategy — attacking all shot balls — that worked in her upset of Sanchez Vicario on Saturday, but admitted she was slightly overwhelmed by the occasion.

"She played very well the entire match," Zvereva said. "My tactics were the same (as against Sanchez Vicario) but I made many mistakes at the net because I was so excited to be in the final. But I don't want to take credit from her."

Fernandez collected \$79,000, while Zvereva earned \$39,500.

## Capriati out for Key Biscayne

Jennifer Capriati, who delayed her comeback bid by dropping out of the Australian Open, will not compete at the WTA Key Biscayne Championships, which begin next week.

"She is definitely not playing," WTA spokesman Jim Fuhse said.

Capriati, who missed most of the past year with personal problems, has eight more days to withdraw from the event, which granted her a wild card entry.

Fuhse said the 18-year-old player has not returned to training since an illness sidelined her from the Australian Open. Fuhse said the flu has lingered and kept her from her first tour appearance since last November.

## Graf preparing to play at Delray Beach

A fit Steffi Graf is eager to restart her stalled 1995 season. However, recapturing the top spot is not a priority.

Graf, the No. 2 player in the world since Arantxa Sanchez Vicario unseated her from a 20-month perch as No. 1, is the top seed at this week's \$430,000 Delray Beach winter championships.

It is only her second tournament of the year after a series of injuries.

"Being No. 1 doesn't matter," Graf said Monday, after getting a first-round bye. "I want to play more than anything else. I don't feel like this was the way I wanted to end my career."

Graf will play Spain's Maria Sanchez Lorenzo, a 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 winner over Patricia Hy Boulais on Monday.

France's Nathalie Tauziat, the ninth and highest seed to play Monday, had trouble with the wind before defeating Rita Grande of Italy 7-6 (6-2), 6-2.

No. 13 seed Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico posted a 6-4, 6-2 win over Tatiana Ignatieva, while Aussie Nicole Bradtke upset 15th-seeded Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan 7-6 (6-2), 6-2.

Graf has been bothered by an aching back since losing the U.S. Open final to Sanchez Vicario in September. Six months of intense rehabilitation, followed by re-occurring injuries to a calf muscle, has altered Graf's perspective.

"My priority now is to stay injury-free," Graf said. "If you had seen what I went through the past three or four months, you would see what drive I have."

After a 12-week layoff, Graf surprised herself by winning her 86th WTA title at last month's Open Gaz de France. In the final, Graf beat Mary Pierce, the Australian Open champion, 6-2, 6-2.

## TENNIS ROUNDUP

"I was stunned I played that well," said Graf, who has won the Delray tournament, formerly called the Virginia Slims of Florida, three consecutive times and five overall. Graf's stiffest competition this week should come from second-seeded Conchita Martinez, third-seeded Anke Huber and sixth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez. Even if Graf wins, she wouldn't overtake Sanchez Vicario, who along with Pierce and Gabriela Sabatini, took this tournament off to prepare for next week's Lipton championships at Key Biscayne.

"I have to prove something first," Graf said. "Arantxa has been very consistent. I have to earn it. That will come in time. I won't force it."

## Gaudenzi beats Fromberg

Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy overcame a slow start and a mild case of jet lag to beat Richard Fromberg of Australia in the first round of the \$1,800,000 Newsweek Championships Cup on Monday.

Gaudenzi, at number 13 the only seeded player in action on Monday, prevailed 2-6 6-2 7-6 (7-2) in one hour, 54 minutes.

Top seed Pete Sampras and second-seeded Andre Agassi received first-round byes at the 56-player tournament, as did the rest of the top eight seeded players.

Agassi could overtake Sampras at number one in the ATP tour rankings if he wins the tournament and Sampras loses before the quarter-finals, according to tour officials.

American David Wheaton overpowered Cedric Pioline of France 6-3 6-1 with his serve-and-volley game in another first-round match at the hard court tournament.

Gaudenzi, ranked 19th in the world, played a lacklustre first set before coming alive against the baseliner Fromberg.

"I really played bad in the first set," Gaudenzi said. "I was not so aggressive and my attitude was a little negative. Maybe it was a little jet lag. But in the third set I felt good and also in the tiebreak I could win."

## Krajicek fit for Davis Cup

Richard Krajicek, who injured his knee on the weekend, will play for the Netherlands in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-final against Germany at the end of the month, the Dutch news agency ANP said Tuesday.

Krajicek, 23, ranked 10th in the world, hurt his right knee as he lunged for a shot on match point in winning the world indoor tournament in Rotterdam Sunday.

The tall Dutchman had the knee examined in hospital on Monday and has been passed fit for the March 31-April 2 tie.

## Germans set to introduce random tests

BONN (R) — Germany plans to become the first country to introduce an extensive programme of random blood tests during training in a bid to intensify its campaign to catch athletes who cheat with drugs.

German Sports Federation (DSB) vice-president Ulrich Feldhoff told Reuters on Tuesday that the federation planned around 20,000 annual tests on athletes from all major sports. The programme is expected to be introduced in the last quarter of

the year. "Following (scientific) reports, the DSB's anti-doping commission has put forward the proposal to the federation's board that the tests be introduced this autumn," Feldhoff said. "I expected the board to back the proposal."

"The credibility of top-class sport is on the line at the moment ... the situation is critical," he added.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)

and many countries test the urine of athletes during training and competition. But scientists believe blood tests are more efficient in detecting the use of drugs such as steroids over a longer period.

Blood tests have been part of the elite "Golden Tour" athletics meetings in Oslo, Brussels, Zurich and Berlin in recent seasons. But until now, no country has introduced an extensive random testing programme during training.



British jockey Simon McNeil eases from his mount during the Doncaster races in York Monday (AFP photo)

	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Tel.: 625155
	<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	<b>PLAZA</b>	<b>CONCORD</b>	<b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b>	<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b>	<b>AHLAN THEATRE</b>
	Eddie Murphy in <b>Beverly Hills Cop 3</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Honey, I Blew Up The Kid Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00 Jean-Claude Van Damm <b>TimeCop</b> Shows: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian star: Adel Imam — <b>Bakhit &amp; Andadileh</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> Jean-Claude Van Damm <b>STREET FIGHTER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00	Mousa Hijazin "Sumaah" In the political comedy <b>"Hi Citizen"</b> Author and Director: Mohammad Al Shawaqfeh Daily starting 8:30 p.m. Monday is the weekly holiday	Presents <b>Abu Awwad</b> In the social comedy <b>Punctured Bag</b> The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	Presents: The political satire: <b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays



## Ince charged with assault at Palace

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United and England midfielder, Paul Ince has been charged with common assault on a spectator, Scotland Yard confirmed here on Tuesday.

Ince will join teammate Eric Cantona on March 23 when they will appear before Croydon magistrates following an incident in United's match at Crystal Palace on January 25.

Cantona was charged on February 21 with common assault on another spectator, Matthew Simmons.

But both United and the Football Association (FA) said they will not be taking immediate action against Ince.

FA spokespersons Clare Tomlinson said: "If we had received a complaint about his behaviour at the time, we might have considered charging Paul Ince, but we did not."

"We would only consider charging him now if he was found guilty of an offence." Chelsea's Dennis Wise was pulled out of the England squad for last month's friendly to Dublin after being convicted of assaulting a taxi-driver.

Bot Tomlinson said the situation with Ince was entirely different at this stage and that he was still available for England's friendly with Yugoslavia at Wembley on March 29.

She added: "Dennis Wise



File picture dated Nov. 22 1994, of Manchester United's players Paul Ince (left) and Eric Cantona (right) during a match with Crystal Palace (AFP photo)

Ince has been charged with common assault by the courts. If Paul was found guilty, we would have to look at what further measures we might need to take.

"But at this stage he is not guilty of anything. He is free to play for Manchester United and we would never tell Terry Venables who he could select for the England squad."

The charges follow an incident which began when Cantona was sent off during a

game between Manchester United and Crystal Palace. On his way to the dressing room, Cantona allegedly attacked Simmons with a lung-fu style kick.

Further scuffles, in which Ince was allegedly involved, followed.

As a result of the incident, Manchester United banned 28-year-old Cantona for the rest of the season and fined him 20,000.

At the end of February, an

FA disciplinary commission suspended Cantona from all football up to and including September 1995 and fined him £10,000.

Ince returns to the scene of the incident on Tuesday night for Manchester United's Premiership match against Wimbledon, who share the Selhurst Park ground with Crystal Palace.

United will only consider punishing Ince if he is found guilty.

## F.A. charge Graham with misconduct

LONDON (AFP) — Former Arsenal manager George Graham was charged with misconduct by the English Football Association (F.A.) here on Tuesday.

The charge follows a Premier League inquiry which revealed Graham had received an illegal payment of £425,000 in connection with signings of Pal Lydersen and John Jensen.

Graham, sacked by Arsenal last month following the inquiry into illegal payments involving transfers of foreign players to English clubs, has 21 days to respond.

The Premier League was powerless to act on its findings against Graham but passed on relevant documents and evidence to F.A. chief executive Graham Kelly.

The charge puts Graham's future career in jeopardy as the F.A. have unlimited jurisdiction in matters of football to impose whatever punishment they see fit.

A ban from management in England would almost certainly be endorsed by FIFA, football's world governing body, and imposed worldwide.

The F.A. statement read: "The Football Association has decided to charge Mr. George Graham, the former manager of Arsenal Football Club, with misconduct in relation to payments allegedly received by him in connection with transfers."

"The Football Association is still considering the evidence. It will be conducting its own investigation. We will be in touch with Arsenal shortly in connection with the facts surrounding these matters."

The Premier League are investigating all transfers involving overseas players in the wake of Graham developments.

On Monday former Liverpool boss Graeme Souness started legal proceedings against the publishers of Today newspaper over a story that questioned the financial details of the transfer of Danish player Torben Piechnik.

Souness was manager at Arsenal at the time of Piechnik's move from FC Copenhagen in September 1992, the deal being arranged by Norwegian agent Rune Hauge, who was involved in the Lydersen and Jensen deals.

## Arab Cup Winners' Championship

## Faisali leave for Cairo today, play Egypt's Ahli Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordao's Al Faisali will meet Egyptian champions Al Ahli in the opening match of the 5th Arab Cup Winners' Championship which kicks off in Cairo Friday with eight teams taking part.

Al Faisali, the holders of the 1994 Jordan Cup Winners' Cup, will be playing in Group A alongside hosts Al Ahli, Al Mustaqbal of Tunis and Qatar's Al Arabi. Group B includes titleholders Olympique of Morocco, Al Shabab of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait's Al Qadissieh and Rafah of Palestine.

Judging by the results of the respective teams, Al Faisali are favoured to advance to the semifinals as they seem to have the easier group: Al Arabi are last in Qatar's championship and Al Mustaqbal are not among the top six in Tunis.

During the past season, Al Faisali came in third in the Kingdom's first division championship after clinching the trophy for two consecutive years and setting a record for their 25th first division crown. They also hold the



Al Faisali

record for eight Jordan Cup titles.

Al Faisali had a training camp in Syria in preparation for the championship where they had two matches against Himik Club, a top-ranked team from Ukraine, who were on a visit to the Syrian capital. Al Faisali won 2-0 and drew 1-1. Al Faisali's second lineup also had a friendly match with Syria's Al Wihdeh.

## OneAustralia abandons plans to salvage boat

SAN DIEGO (R) — OneAustralia's plan to salvage its capsized, multimillion dollar boat, sails and mast, was abandoned on Monday.

The cost of the salvage and the substantial damage likely sustained by the boat that sank during racing on Sunday rendered the attempt senseless, race organisers said.

Ross Bowler, a leading boat designer from Bruce Farr International, estimated the boat would have hit the bottom of the ocean at 12 knots.

The reason for the failure of oneAustralia, which disappeared from view in about two minutes once it snapped in adverse winds and rough seas, can now only be pieced together through photographs, video footage and testimony of the crew.

OneAustralia's request for a bye from Monday's race against France 3 was refused by the international jury. The team, which had already clinched a berth in the semifinals, will spend the rest of round four re-adjusting its first generation boat and will not race again until the semifinals.

The teams it was scheduled to race in the remainder of round four — France 3, Sydney 95 and Tag Heuer Challenge — will have to sail the course on each race day to score their five victory points. A double blow to the syndicate is that the boat sank with 11 of the 35 racing sails allowed to the end of round four — sails which represent months if not years of research and fine tuning.

## Trail Blazers, Sonics lose

CHICAGO (R) — B.J. Armstrong was on, and the Portland Trail Blazers were off, adding up to a 20-point win for the Chicago Bulls on Monday.

Armstrong, who finished with 27 points, one below his career high, scored eight consecutive points during a decisive 12-0 second-quarter run as the Bulls ripped the Trail Blazers 103-83 for their sixth straight home win.

Portland made just 7-of-20 shots in the second quarter, getting outscored 31-17.

"Me, personally, I just had it going tonight," Armstrong said. "I tried to be aggressive out there on the floor. Outside of our defensive rebounding, we played a very solid game, a good game overall for us."

Scottie Pippen and Toni Kukoc added 15 points apiece for the Bulls, who have not lost at home since January 24.

"We did shoot better tonight, which is so important for our game," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "Obviously, the game was a real scrum out there with the way Portland was shooting out there, and boards were too close for us."

Otis Thorpe scored 21 points and Jerome Kersey added 14 for Portland.

The Blazers shot just 38.6 per cent from the floor (32-of-83) and committed 16 turnovers.

"I'm not being smart or taking anything away from the Bulls, but we didn't play hard or well and it was a very poor exhibition of basketball," said Portland coach P.J. Carlesimo. "I'm not just criticising the players, I'm including the coaches in it too."

Portland's Rod Strickland, who had missed two of the last three games with a bruised shoulder, finished with 12 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

To Seattle, Tim Hardaway's 3-pointer with 66 seconds to play snapped a tie as the Golden State Warriors edged the SuperSonics, 106-103, snapping a six-game losing streak.

After Shawn Kemp missed a free throw to keep the game tied at 97-97, Hardaway's 3-pointer gave Golden State the lead for good with 1:06 to play.

After Hardaway's 3-pointer, Seattle missed four

3-pointers attempting to tie the game — one by Sam Perkins, one by Nate McMillan and two by Gary Payton.

Seattle's last chance to tie came in the final seconds when Payton stole an in-bounds pass, but McMillan missed a 28-footer as time expired.

Hardaway finished with 31 points despite an ailing left wrist, which he will have examined in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Latrell Sprewell added 26 points, including 12 from the foul line, and Victor Alexander added 17 for Golden State, which won at Seattle for the first time since March 17, 1992.

Detlef Schrempf scored 23 points and Payton added 19 for Seattle, which lost for the third time in 24 games against sub-.500 teams.

### RESULTS

Chicago 103, Portland 83  
Golden State 106, Seattle 103  
L.A. Clippers 101, Minnesota 88.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## S. Arabia: No threat from Iran missiles

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia is not concerned by Iran's reported deployment of anti-aircraft missiles at a strategic point in the Gulf, the defence minister, Prince Sultan, was quoted Tuesday as saying. "I think that there is no real escalation with respect to the missiles that Iran is said to have deployed on its shores," Prince Sultan said, according to the official Saudi Press Agency. Washington last week reported an Iranian buildup of Hawk air defence missiles on islands in the Strait of Hormuz, gateway for a substantial share of the world's daily oil needs.

## Japan to go ahead with Iranian loans

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan will not change its plan to extend the rest of its 150 billion yen (\$1.58 billion) loan package to Iran despite U.S. opposition, Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama said Tuesday. "I've told President Clinton that it is important to give support to Iranian pacifists. There are groups seeking peace in Iran and we must not isolate the country," Mr. Murayama told reporters.

## Arafat to attend Copenhagen conference

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was scheduled to attend the UN Summit on Social Development in Denmark after a stopover in Morocco, a Palestinian official said Tuesday. Nabil Abo Rudeina, spokesman for the Palestinian Authority, said Mr. Arafat would meet King Hassan II of Morocco on Wednesday to discuss bilateral ties. He was then to fly Wednesday to the Danish capital for the U.N. summit, which is aimed at finding ways to combat poverty in the Third World.

## Rubinstein refuses lie detector test

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's ex-cabinet secretary and chief peace negotiator with Jordan has refused a routine polygraph test for his new job as the army's legal adviser, the Jerusalem Post reported Tuesday. Elyakim Rubinstein has cited article II of Israel basic law which protects human dignity and freedom in refusing to submit to the lie detector. He was told that even the military chief of staff and secret service chiefs take the test. Mr. Rubinstein's stand is likely to lead to a reexamination of the obligatory test for sensitive posts, the daily said.

## Yemen explosion kills one, injures 44

ADEN (R) — A 20-year-old woman was killed and 44 people were injured in Yemen when a government mine depot exploded, an Interior Ministry official said. The official, quoted by Yemen's SABA news agency said the explosion occurred on Monday due to the improper and prolonged storage of dynamite at a roadworks department warehouse in the Red Sea province of Al Hodeidah. The explosion damaged neighbouring homes and triggered a fire which was later contained, the agency added.

## Visitor pokes doctor's eye in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A man poked a doctor's eye with a pen for preventing him from seeing a patient at a Kuwaiti hospital after visiting hours, newspapers reported on Tuesday. Al Seyassah daily said the 21-year-old visitor stuck his pen in the eye of an Egyptian doctor who had repeatedly asked him to leave, inflicting "permanent damage."

## Saudi opposition reports arrests

NICOSIA (AP) — Saudi Arabian authorities have launched a new detention campaign of prominent scholars and theologians in Mecca and Riyadh, an opposition group said Tuesday. The London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights said in a statement that the crackdown took place Sunday following dawn prayers, but did not give a total figure of detainees. Among those arrested in Mecca, were Sheikh Mohammad Al Qabani, identified as a writer and theology instructor at Umm Al Qura University, and Sheikh Mohammad Ben Said Al Qabani, a religious figure, the statement said. In Riyadh security agents apprehended Said Ben Za'ir and Sheikh Bishr Al Bishr, professors at Al Imam University, it said.

## Top Islamic leader jailed in Belgium

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Ahmad Zaoui, one of the top European leaders of Algeria's most radical Islamic group, was among those arrested in a Belgian police swoop, legal sources said here Tuesday. Mr. Zaoui, who is aged around 35, is considered by Western intelligence services as one of the most important Islamic extremists operating in Europe. He was among nine people arrested during the operation last Wednesday by Belgian secret police to smash a network of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA). All nine are being held in Forest prison in Brussels and could face expulsion, the sources said.

## China rules out defence deal with Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — China has ruled out following its fellow permanent members of the Security Council in signing a defence agreement with Kuwait, a Chinese diplomatic source said Tuesday. Minister of Defence Sheikh Ahmad Al Hamud Al Sabah will pay a six-day visit to China at the end of the month. "China might only sign a military cooperation document with Kuwait... we never sign defence agreements with a foreign country. This is against our constitution and policy," the diplomat said.

## Iranian warden denies Arad held in Tehran

TEL AVIV (AP) — The chief warden of Tehran's central prison has denied that missing Israeli airman Ron Arad is being held there, an Israeli reporter said Tuesday. Hussein Pishva, head of Evin prison in the Iranian capital, was asked by reporter Menashe Amir of Israel Radio in a rare interview about claims by former German inmates that Arad was there as recently as January. "There was no such a thing. He was never here," Mr. Amir quoted Pishva as saying in the telephone conversation Monday which lasted for several minutes and was conducted in Farsi. Mr. Amir, who works for Israel Radio's Farsi language service, said he telephoned the prison four times before Mr. Pishva agreed to speak with him. Mr. Pishva's decision was unusual considering Iran's hostility toward the Jewish state.

## Banned Israeli party holds meeting in Knesset

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Militants from the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement have met in the Israeli parliament, deputies said Tuesday. Kach leader Baruch Marzel, who is supposed to be under house arrest, and his spokesman Noam Federman were invited to the Knesset by extreme right-wing Moledet Party deputy Shaul Guttman on Monday. Parliamentary Speaker Shevah Weiss said it was "unthinkable" that members of the outlawed group had been allowed into the Knesset and ordered a security inquiry.

## Eleven car thieves to hang in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An Iraqi court has sentenced 11 car thieves to hang as the authorities crack down on a crime wave sparked by the crippling effects of U.N. sanctions, the official press reported Tuesday. Eight were condemned for trying to steal two government cars which they planned to send abroad, the daily Al Jumhuriyah reported. Three others are to hang for stealing two private cars. The ruling Revolutionary Command Council has given courts the power to impose severe punishments, including amputations for thieves, in a bid to curb spiralling crime.

## Iraq accuses U.S. of stirring clashes with Kurdish rebels

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Tuesday accused the United States of stirring up an outbreak of fighting with Kurdish guerrillas to torpedo its attempts to win a lifting of U.N. sanctions.

Newspapers ran banner headlines accusing the Americans of "manipulating their agents in the north to carry out attacks on our army units."

A military communiqué said the army's Fifth Division had driven back an attack by fighters from Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of the two main parties in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

It said the PUK attacked the unit on Sunday night but was driven back and suffered several casualties.

Northern Iraq has been controlled by Kurds in defiance of Baghdad and with allied protection since a rebellion after the 1991 Gulf war.

The army accused "members of the American intelligence service who went to the region in February" of instigating the Kurdish operation.

Iraq has denied reports from the Kurdish opposition that it had massed its forces near the region controlled by the Kurds and that the forces were shelling Kurdish towns.

The United States "spreads fabricated reports and provokes problems aimed at diverting world public opinion, from the suffering of the Iraqi people" every time the U.N. Security Council is due to review sanctions imposed on Baghdad after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the army said.

"We do not rule out the possibility of a continuation of these attacks in coming days. Our troops are in their defensive positions and have not crossed the lines" of the fighters, it added.

The Security Council is to

hold its two-monthly review of sanctions on March 13, and Washington's U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said that the United States had mustered enough support to block any easing of sanctions, but would be prepared to use its veto if necessary.

President Bill Clinton had authorised her to state plainly that Washington would do its utmost to stop any "preemptive" move to allow Iraq to sell oil, she said. (see related story on page 2).

The state-run Iraqi News Agency meanwhile said that Iraqi military officers "do not rule out" further attacks by the Kurds "in order to serve American objectives."

It was the first time Iraq has confirmed its involvement in warfare in the Kurdish enclave.

Last week, Kurdish sources reported what they called the beginnings of an Iraqi onslaught following months of fighting between Kurdish factions for control of the self-ruled area.

A PUK radio station in the north accused the Iraqis of mounting an attack early Tuesday morning on the group's fighters, the "Peshmerga," in Erbil province.

"After a heroic confrontation, the valiant Peshmerga forces repulsed the enemy's attack, exploited its retreat to inflict heavy losses on it, and purged some positions that the enemy forces had entered," the radio.

The radio station said Kurdish fighters seized seven high-caliber guns, an armoured transport, three machine guns, 100 Kalashnikov rifles, 200 rocket propelled grenades and a large quantity of artillery shells.

Kurdish rebels and regional experts have warned that Baghdad may launch an offensive against the Kurds.

## U.S. Christians assail Israeli steps in Jerusalem

WASHINGTON (R) — Eight U.S. Christian leaders including the president of the National Council of Catholic Bishops on Monday urged the Clinton administration to press Israel to stop annexing Arab land in Jerusalem.

In a statement that angered U.S. Jewish leaders, the eight asked to meet President Bill Clinton and urged him to place the question of Jerusalem higher on his agenda.

"In contravention of international law, more and more land is taken out of Palestinian hands and placed under Israeli control by annexation, expropriation and private purchase, often coercive or of questionable legality," the statement said.

U.S. Jewish leaders said they were surprised and saddened by the statement. Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, said: "This statement harms the many advances that have been made in Christian-Jewish relations. I am disappointed that it was issued without proper Jewish consultation."

He added the statement also undermined the peace process in which both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed the status of Jerusalem was

an issue to be resolved at the end of the negotiating process and not to be raised at this time.

Signing the statement were Cardinal William Keeler, president of the U.S. Catholic Conference and Archbishop of Baltimore Edmond Browning, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church Herbert Chilstrom of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, Metropolitan Philip Saliba of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Kara Newell, executive director of the American Friends Service Committee and Robert Seiple, president of World Vision.

In a separate statement Bishop Keeler said he wanted to meet Mr. Clinton "for the sake of the Christian population of Jerusalem and the region, whose historic presence has dwindled so dramatically in recent years."

The Christian leaders did not acknowledge any special Jewish or Israeli role for Jerusalem saying Israel's claim to sovereignty preempted genuine negotiations.

## Israel wants self-rule election without army pullback

From Michael Jansen in Nicotia

IN AN address to a seminar on "Europe and the Middle East: Interdependence and Partnership," organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, which opened yesterday in Cyprus, Israeli Knesset member Eli Dayan said that Palestinian elections could be "held this year," but only "without redeployment" of Israeli occupation troops.

There could be no Israeli military pullout from West Bank towns and villages, in accordance with the provisions of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule agreements, because the Palestinians could not guarantee the "personal security" of individual Israelis.

"Personal security" is he asserted, "the main obstacle" to reaching peace with the Palestinians. "Without facing this problem of personal security we will face deadlock with the Palestinians" — meaning that the Palestinians must accept to hold elections while the Israeli army re-

mains in control of the West Bank.

Thus, he said, it is necessary to "create new ideas" on how to hold this poll without the redeployment stipulated in the Oslo accord, which said that the Israeli army should "be redeployed outside populated areas, not later than the eve of elections."

Mr. Dayan then appealed to the Council of Europe to support and become involved in the election process which the European Union has agreed to finance and supervise.

Mr. Dayan, a former mayor of the coastal town of Ashdod, is an influential member of the Labour Party and is reportedly in the running for its leadership.

However, if the EU and the Council of Europe agree to become involved in elections while the occupation remains, Europe would itself violate the Oslo accord, lend such elections moral credibility and give legitimacy to the indefinite continuation of the occupation on the ground that the Palestinians may never be in a position to ensure absolute "personal



ENVOYS MEET: Jordan's Ambassador-designate to Israel Marwan Muasher (left) speaks with his Israeli counterpart Shimon Shamir on the fringes of a ministerial-level Arab-Israeli meeting on the repatriation of displaced Palestinians. The two ambassador-designates have not yet assumed office (Photo by Yusef Allan)

## Somali leaders agree to reopen port, airport

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somalia's two most powerful warlords have agreed to reopen Mogadishu's airport and seaport, both now occupied by militias, it was reported here Tuesday.

Somalia's self-styled president, Ali Mahdi Mohammad, who controls north Mogadishu, agreed with south Mogadishu warlord Mohammad Farah Aidede to reopen the seaport on Thursday, a member of a joint port committee said.

The port is occupied now by General Aidede's men, but is within range of the guns of Mr. Ali Mahdi's forces, who control most of the adjoining neighbourhood of Basmala.

Mr. Ali Mahdi's radio station said his militias would join Gen. Aidede's men at the port, quoting the north Mogadishu warlord as saying they were "ready to be summoned at any moment."

Sporadic shooting erupted in Basmala Monday night, but no casualties were reported and the radio stations of both sides urged militias to respect a peace agreement the two warlords signed on Feb. 22.

U.N. troops, who arrived here in late 1992 to halt looting of food going to famine victims and to try to bring peace to this Horn of Africa country, pulled out last Thursday under the protection of 2,000 U.S. and Italian marines on shore and 8,000 troops from six nations aboard a 23-vessel armada.

They took all the essential port and airport equipment with them, promising to return it once competent authorities were in place.

A Feb. 22 pact between Gen. Aidede and Mr. Ali Mahdi, which came too late for a U.N. deadline, formalised an agreement to establish joint committees to run the port and airport, which had been under the control of U.N. troops.

Many people had expected

## Al Bilad plans to sue minister, official

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The publisher of Al Bilad weekly, Nayef Al Tourah, said Tuesday he intends to take Minister of Information Khaled Al Karaki and Director of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin to court for "arbitrarily using the law."

Mr. Tourah said he plans to sue the government for what he says were arbitrary measures and procrastination tactics used against Al Bilad, which was suspended two weeks ago along with another weekly, Hawadeth Al Sa'ah, because their chief editors were not full members of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA).

Mr. Tourah claimed that Dr. Karaki and Mr. Amin were implementing the law in an arbitrary manner. He said he had already nominated two new candidates for the post of chief editors but both were rejected.

"Each time they come up with a different excuse," Mr. Tourah said. "They are exerting all kinds of pressure against us because we are an opposition paper."

Mr. Amin, however, dismissed the charges. He said Al Bilad first nominated Samira Awad but that her application was not complete. He said she lacked a certificate from court testifying that she had no criminal record. The certificate she provided was outdated, Mr. Amin said.

Mr. Tourah's second nominee, Maher Abu Teir, works for other newspapers and could not be considered as a full-time employee qualified for the post of chief editor as the law stipulates, Mr. Amin said.

But Mr. Tourah said he did not accept Mr. Amin's explanations. He said the minister and Mr. Amin were putting pressure on the newspaper to force it to stop its publication.

Mr. Tourah claimed his newspaper lost up to JD30,000 in the past two weeks. He said he had received assurances that the issue would be resolved peacefully and quickly. The newspaper last printed on Feb. 27.

Mr. Tourah said he would file another case against the two officials to compensate for the losses. The publisher of Hawadeth Al Sa'ah, Riad Al Hroub, who said his newspaper lost JD20,000, said he would also press charges if the issue was not resolved soon.

Dr. Hronb said he also nominated four journalists for the post of chief editor, but all were rejected for different reasons.

Al Bilad and Hawadeth Al Sa'ah used to print at Al Dustour's printing facilities. But the two weeklies' publishers said Al Dustour stopped printing the papers after they received a letter from Mr. Amin informing them of the illegal status of the two tabloids.

Both publishers said they were not able to print their newspapers anywhere else.

The two weeklies claim they have wide circulation

(Continued on page 7)

## COLUMN

## Boston College cancels award to Thatcher

NEW YORK (R) — Boston College, one of America's leading Catholic colleges, Monday cancelled a planned award to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher after protests from the Irish-American community. Officials at Boston College told Reuters it had cancelled the award after a call from Lady Thatcher's office saying she would be unavailable on the date of the award. "She gave no reasons as to why she would be unable to attend," college spokesman Doug Whiting said. The planned award had sparked widespread criticism among Irish-Americans and last Friday New York Cardinal John O'Connor joined the protests expressing "perplexity and deep concern at the plan." Irish talk show host Adrien Flannely, a leader of the Irish-American community, told Reuters Boston College had scrapped its plan to give Lady Thatcher its Ignatius Medal on May 5, the 14th anniversary of the death of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands.

## Angry parents kidnap teacher

MONTELLIER, France (AFP) — A posse of parents incensed that their children's teacher was transferred and not replaced stormed into her new school and brought her back by force, education authorities said. Marie-Laure Poder, 35, a substitute teacher at the Bani School in this southern French town, was held for three hours while parents negotiated with authorities, who eventually agreed to find a replacement. Ms. Poder had been moved to another school in the district Friday to stand in for a sick colleague. On Monday four fathers from Bani school drove over to her new school and ordered her into their car. They drove back to the Bani school, where around 15 other parents were protesting at the education authority's failure to find a full-time replacement for their children's former teacher. Battering waving parents occupied the school office and started negotiations with the school authorities. They let Ms. Poder go at midday after the authorities promised to send a replacement Thursday.

## Teacher gags child for clapping

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — A nursery school teacher bound and gagged an asthmatic four-year-old boy because he was making too much noise clapping his hands. The school in the central England town of Birmingham confirmed that the teacher bound Nathaniel Thomas' hands and covered his mouth with tape. The teacher has apologised to the boy's parents and the school is to discipline him, education authorities said Tuesday. The boy's father, Dean Thomas, is seeking legal advice. "It all began because he was clapping in class. He was playing up in the nursery unit like all the children but he is only four years old," Mr. Thomas told reporters. "The teacher could have punished him in many other ways, such as make him stand on his own in the corner. My son is asthmatic and this could have triggered a reaction."

## Arizona couple wins \$101.8m

PHOENIX (AP) — An Arizona secretary and her painter-husband stepped forward Monday to claim the multistate powerball's second-largest lottery jackpot at \$101.8 million. Shirley and Don Pence matched all six numbers Saturday, but their identities weren't immediately known. The Phoenix couple said during a news conference they will retire on their winnings. "We've both worked hard all our lives and now we don't have to. I guess that means the most to us," said Mrs. Pence, who works for an insurance company. "I guess it hasn't sunk in yet." The couple bought the ticket at a 7-eleven convenience store in North Phoenix. The jackpot is the second-largest powerball haul for a single-ticket winner. The largest was \$111 million won by a Wisconsin teacher in 1993. In lotteries overall, the largest jackpot is \$118.8 million won in California in 1991.